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Seoul Applauds Surprise Offer By North for Negotiations

First Bilateral Talks in 4 Years; South Considers Proposal Sign of 'Substantial' Progress

By Don Kirk
International Herald Tribune

LONDON - South Korean officials said they perceived a breakthrough Sunday in efforts at opening dialogue with North Korea after the North proposed talks for Saturday in Beijing.

Senior members of the staff of President Kim Dae Jung, winding up two days of talks in London with Asian and European leaders, welcomed the North's proposal and said the South would send a five-member delegation to the talks, which will focus on food and agricultural problems. It would be the first direct government dialogue between the countries in nearly four years.

South Korean diplomats said the acting chief of the North Korean Red Cross had proposed the talks in a telephone call to his South Korean counterpart. The South Koreans said they were optimistic that the talks could go beyond the issue of North Korea's food shortages and touch upon other long-standing issues, including visits between millions of family members separated during the Korean War.

"This marks a substantial progression and change in our relations," Mr. Kim said after returning to Seoul on Sunday, Reuters reported from Seoul. "Since we have insisted on direct talks, we will not only attend but also engage in a sincere dialogue to attain a successful outcome."

Mr. Kim has said he was open to a Korean summit meeting and an exchange of special envoys, and has pledged never to absorb the North forcibly or to undermine its Communist regime.

News of the proposed talks came Saturday as Mr. Kim was outlining his policy toward North Korea in a speech at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London.

Mr. Kim promised "further help in the future" for North Korea despite the North's reluctance to engage in a direct dialogue with the South.

He said the South would help the North "join international organizations and advance into the international community" if the North "begins to sincerely seek reconciliation with the South."

Mr. Kim's remarks elaborated on his previous vows to try to reconcile with the North, which has taken part in four-party talks with the United States, China and South Korea.

South Korean officials said they saw the North's proposal for talks as indicating the possibility of a full-scale North-South dialogue. Another factor behind the North's offer was the prospect of worsening food shortages in the spring.

Mr. Kim reviewed a series of measures the South has pointed to as evidence of its goodwill, including a pledge to contribute an additional 50,000 tons of food through the World Food Program as well as an agreement at a previous Red Cross meeting in Beijing to supply food and fertilizer.

He appealed to other countries to take part in a plan for rescuing the North, saying further help was "needed to make North Korea start down the road to reform and openness."

He pointedly did not mention, however, the latest four-party talks in Geneva, in which the North refused to budge from its central demands for the United States to withdraw its 37,000 troops from South Korea and for negotiations to be held exclusively with America.

While in London, Mr. Kim lobbied privately for European and Asian assistance for the North while focusing publicly on gathering support for South Korea, which is in the midst of an economic crisis. In meetings with political and business leaders as well as formal sessions Friday and Saturday, Mr. Kim said he had already done away with many of the bureaucratic problems impeding foreign investment while promising "transparency" in dealings with both his government and

"We Live in A Dangerous World"

Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen talks about action to combat new threats, the U.S. presence around the world, race relations, sexual tensions in the armed forces and more

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private companies.

He seemed just as interested, however, in overcoming seemingly insurmountable barriers to cooperation between North and South Korea.

One hopeful sign, he said, was that the North "is refraining from strongly repudiating or denouncing the South Korean government and is showing signs of change."

One of these, he said, was the North's decision to permit foreign passenger planes to fly over its territory.

In the last government contact, the deputy prime ministers of both countries met in 1994 to prepare for the first meeting of the leaders of the two nations. The meeting was canceled after the North Korean president, Kim Il Sung, died of a heart attack only a few weeks before the meeting was to be held. Relations between the two countries have been frozen since then, with the North rejecting all offers of government talks with the South.

Washington Post April 6, 1998 Pg. 18

N. Korea Hinders Effort To Track Food Shipments

Reports of Growing Hunger Quicken Relief Effort

By Steven Mufson
and John Pomfret
Washington Post
Foreign Service

Aid officials are expressing increasing concern over widening food shortages and hunger in the isolated Stalinist state of North Korea. But despite the reports, the hard-line Communist government has continued to haggle with two of its biggest food donors, the United States and South Korea, over monitoring of food shipments by international aid workers.

"The situation is getting worse and worse among the general population," said Doug Coutts, head of the World Food Program in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, in a telephone interview. Although Coutts said he believes North Korea is "not in a famine situation yet," he said mortality rates have risen sharply as many people, weak from being underfed, die of diseases they might otherwise have survived.

Other groups, including the Washington-based evangelical Christian charity World Vision, suggested that large numbers of people are dying. The South Korea-based Buddhist Sharing Movement surveyed 472 North Korean "food refugees" late last year and early this year in China and estimated that between 24 percent and 32 percent of their immediate family members had died as a result of a shortage of food. Most succumbed to disease, the movement's report said, adding that the refugees came from a wide range of North Korean cities.

The World Food Program reported in March that North Korea's grain stocks will be near depletion by late this month or early May.

Events in North Korea are affected by the government's unpredictability and the tense relationship with South Korea. More than 30,000 U.S. troops are stationed near South Korea's border with the North to protect the democratic South.

Mismanagement, failure to reform North Korea's autarchic economic system, bad weather and the collapse of the Soviet Union, North Korea's biggest trading partner, shoved North Korea into an economic tailspin after 1989.

For three years it has been unable to feed itself, sparking fears that its huge army might attack the South. Last month it announced a military alert and the beginning of military exercises of unspecified duration.

Since 1995, an international effort led by the World Food Program has delivered more than 825,000 tons of food to North Korea. China is believed to donate or sell North Korea an additional 1.1 million tons a year, a U.S. official said.

The United Nations has issued a $415 million appeal for North Korea this year. The World Food Program is administering more than 90 percent of that, or 724,000 tons worth about $387 million. The program has targeted 7.2 million of North Korea's most vulnerable people -- mostly the young -- out of total population of about 23 million. So far, it has raised 220,000 tons from the United States and $20,000 from the Czech Republic, and South Korea plans to give 55,000 tons separately.

As part of an agreement signed with Pyongyang on Feb. 23, the food program almost doubled last year's 385,000-ton appeal on the condition that the North allow the program to increase the number of international monitors from about 20 to 46 and that they visit every area where the program's food was being distributed.

North Korea allows the program to monitor relief activities in only 150 of the 187 counties where food is distributed. The North also blocks foreign access to Rangang and Chagang provinces in the northeast, where food shortages are believed to be the most severe.

The U.S. government has also urged North Korea to allow more American aid workers access to the North. Last year, Pyongyang allowed only five American workers to monitor a shipment of 55,000 tons of U.S. food that was funneled through aid agencies. Only non-Korean speaking officials were allowed, they had to travel together and their visas were of limited duration, making complete monitoring impossible.

Last Tuesday, the North Korean government pulled out of a meeting with five U.S.-based charities to discuss efforts to monitor 83,000 tons of food pledged by the United States for this year. Western aid officials said a death in the family of one North Korean participant was Pyongyang's stated reason for its failure to show up.

"Unless North Korea opens up and allows people in to see the extent of the damage, there will be more and more skepticism about North Korea's needs," said a senior Clinton administration official. "And that skepticism is turning into donor fatigue."

On March 27, after three days of talks in Beijing and months of wrangling elsewhere, Pyongyang finally agreed to let the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies oversee the delivery of 55,000 tons of food donated by South Korea. North Korea had demanded that its own team monitor the deliveries, while South Korean Red Cross officials were worried that the donations would be used to feed the North Korean military.

The controversy over the monitoring of aid for North Korea underscores the general confusion in the West about events in the radical Communist country. Western and South Korean organizations have pressed North Korea to allow more access to determine the extent of the problem.

"Either they are disguising a famine of massive proportions or they are manipulating us for their own political purposes and creating a famine that doesn't exist," said Andrew Natsios, vice president of World Vision, who believes that the former scenario is unfolding. "We need access so we can understand the gravity of North Korea's plight."

Coutts said the daily food ration in North Korea was slashed recently from an already paltry range of 15.75 to 17.5 ounces a day, which Coutts said is the "minimum needed" for an adult, to between 7 and 10.5 ounces a day. The rations are distributed by the Public Distribution System, which cut rations last year, too, but Coutts said the cutback happened a month earlier this year.

Mufson reported from Beijing, Pomfret from Washington.

"We Live In A Dangerous World"

Parade
April 5, 1998 Pg. 7

By Lyric Wallwork Winik

HE HAS BEEN CALLED A maverick and a loner. He is a soft-spoken intellectual born in a tenement in Bangor, Maine. He is a Republican who rose to national prominence at 33 when he broke with his party and voted in Congress to impeach President Richard Nixon. When he became Defense Secretary in January 1997, some Washington insiders predicted he'd be gone in a year over policy differences with the Clinton Administration. But today William S. Cohen, 57, is still on the job, the civilian leader of America's 1.4 million men and women in uniform.

From the start he has been challenged—by escalating tensions abroad, military sex scandals, questions about military strength and even Presidential scandals. Now the man who describes himself as "passionately moderate" faces tough choices where moderation may not be possible. As Bill Cohen stressed, "We live in a very dangerous world."

Cohen is stark in assessing the threats we face. They range from chemical and biological weapons unleashed in American cities to cyber-terrorism, where our own computers could be turned against us, even shutting down the stock market. "These things are out there for terrorists, regional aggressors, even religious cults," he said. "Right now, the Pentagon is helping U.S. cities prepare for a chemical or biological weapons attack," Cohen told me as we flew to Bosnia to visit the troops. "The real challenge of the future is: How do you balance the technology coming into our lives with the terror that can be wreaked by that technology?"

But while Cohen talks tough when it comes to biological terror (he was widely praised for boldly holding up a 5-pound bag of sugar on TV to show how little anthrax Saddam Hussein would need to annihilate one U.S. city), he has been hesitant to take the lead on other issues. He vacillated for months over separating male and female barracks during basic training to prevent disciplinary problems and sexual abuse. Last January, he indicated that the sexes should be separated, saying: "This is not a dormitory. Why are we running dormitories? They don't live together when they are in Bosnia." In March, Cohen retreated and did not require separate barracks for each sex, as recommended by a top commission that he'd created. Instead, he asked the military to ensure that men and women live "in separate areas if not separate buildings." Managing such divergent issues has tested every Defense Secretary this decade, but Cohen's approach also highlights his own personal contradictions.

Just who is Bill Cohen? His fluid speech, tailored clothes and penchant for quoting Greek historians mask his modest beginnings as the son of a working-class Russian-Jewish father and an Irish-Protestant mother. He was a basketball star in school. "I used to spend nights outside in the winter, shooting baskets," he recalled. "I would go home in tears because my ears ached and my hands were frozen." He remembers the cold shoulders he got too, of "not being accepted" because of his Jewish name. Once, while he pitched a baseball game, a beer can was hurled on the field, and a spectator shouted, "Send the Jew-boy home!"

After college and law school, Cohen returned to Bangor and entered Congress in 1973. He won a Senate seat in 1978 and was retiring in 1996 when President Clinton offered him the Defense Secretary job (current salary: $151,800). Cohen—who spent 18 years on the Senate Armed Services Committee and has written nine books, two of them poetry—accepted and moved his 3000-volume library into the Pentagon. Thus he and his wife, Janet Langhart, 56, a TV personality and president of a media-consulting firm, became the first interracial couple to represent the Pentagon. (They wed in 1996. Cohen has two grown sons by a previous marriage.)

When they step into a crowd, Cohen and Langhart, whom he calls "a pillar of support," make a statement about race in America. "Bill and I reflect the diversity of our military," said Langhart. She called their union "a manifestation of the possible," while adding soberly, "It took a lot of courage for Bill to marry me." But their combined presence clearly strikes a chord with America's multiracial troops. On the *U.S.S. Guam* last December, African-American sailors clamored for photos with Langhart rather than Cohen. Mostly, though, the two are a contrast in styles. Langhart exudes passion, whether she is two-stepping with a soldier in Bosnia or declaring that "every person who puts on a uniform is my hero." Cohen puts his passion into his poetry and tends to be cerebral in person. He does not dominate a room. Indeed, 10 percent of him seems to be somewhere else.

This detached style is a hallmark of Cohen's decision-making. He is a reluctant risk-taker. He can be provocative when discussing biological attacks, cyberwarfare, even enemies targeting our electric-power grids, noting that "the words 'weapons of mass destruction' don't have much meaning to the average person." But with U.S. military threats against Saddam Hussein, Cohen is far more cautious. He did not compare Iraq to crises like the U.S.-Soviet struggles or the invasion of Kuwait and even resisted calling Iraq a "crisis." He said, "It is my belief that the United Nations and its credibility are at stake here." Any military action will be "limited and a last resort," he declared. "There are

no guarantees. While Saddam is there, he will be a problem."

But Cohen strongly supports a "forward-deployed military," where our forces are spread across many potential hot spots. (Since the end of the Cold War, the number of hot spots has grown.) He believes this military presence is vital to shaping the world environment "in ways friendly to us." He explained: "From my own experience, you shape people's judgments about you by interacting with them, by showing the force and showing the flag." Today's troops can have "a multiplicity of roles," he added. "To say you're developing warriors does not exclude developing diplomats. How our troops conduct themselves at home or abroad reflects America's posture. I tell troops they're there not only to engage in war if attacked but also to shape people's opinions about them."

To critics who have said we're overcommitted abroad, with 250,000 U.S. troops, he replied: "Well, what would you like to give up—the Persian Gulf? Korea?" He contends that U.S. withdrawals would be unwise, while acknowledging that, in an age of military cutbacks, "now seven people are doing the work of 10, with greater pressure being placed on fewer individuals."

At home, the military is struggling. Sex scandals have hurt reputations, re-enlistments are down, one-third of recruits quit during their first tour of duty, and the Army has not met recruitment quotas. Of the scandals, Cohen said flatly: "Those headlines don't portray accurately what's taking place in the military." On morale, he responded: "If you go out into the field, morale is pretty high." What the military must compete with, he said, is an economy that also wants top people and can offer more compensation. "When I turn on the morning talk shows and see all the problems discussed in society, I know the military is doing something right. It has dealt with drug abuse, alcoholism, racism and workforce integration, probably in a superior fashion to any other segment of society."

But what Cohen knows about the military comes only from observation. He is the sixth of 20 Defense Secretaries without military experience. He received a draft deferment in 1962 and said he has never "second-guessed" his decision not to serve. And Cohen—who barely raises his modulated voice and prefers *The Tonight Show* to the Washington staple *Nightline*—has tried to avoid controversy over issues like co-ed training, women in combat and lower standards, which plagued his recent predecessors. He waited for multiple reports before adding 24-hour supervision to co-ed basic training. And while he said that "society has not reached the point where it believes women should be in ground combat," he pointed out that, due to their smaller size, female pilots are "better able to cope with G-forces in an airplane" than most men and that "women are fully integrated into the Bosnia operation." About complaints, some from recruits, that basic training is too easy, Cohen responded: "We're drawing upon a society which has grown softer. But we're going to put greater emphasis on physical training."

Cohen cannot avoid fallout from the allegations of legal and sexual misconduct embroiling the Commander-in-Chief, President Clinton. "I have not seen that the allegations have had any detectable impact upon the troops," he said. "What they might think privately, I don't know." Concerning the sexual allegations, he stated that the Pentagon was clarifying its own policy on adultery. (The military has strong prohibitions against adultery and can treat it as a crime.) "Adultery is only punishable if it undermines morale and breaks unit cohesion, and no one has been singled out for punishment otherwise."

Overall, Cohen said, somewhat uncomfortably: "What I can say is that the President has denied the allegations, and we should accept his statements until they are proved otherwise." He added, "My focus is defense issues."

One of Cohen's top goals is to equip the military with advanced technology. Already, in mock battles, Marines have ordered air strikes with palm-top computers. The future may see pilotless planes and battlefield robots. But many defense experts fear that the Pentagon is not modernizing fast enough. Andrew Krepinevich, a former National Defense Panel member, is worried by Pentagon decisions to use money meant for new technologies to pay for costly peacekeeping missions. "We are sacrificing future needs to pay for today," he said. "That decision may come back to haunt us. A Defense Secretary in 2008 may face greater challenges because we failed to make tough choices now."

Secretary Cohen has a personal priority—to remind Americans that "we're enjoying freedom by virtue of what our troops are doing." He added, "People don't get a chance to see the contribution the military makes to their lives." Here, he was joined by Langhart, who echoed: "Americans get their money's worth from our troops."

While Cohen the Republican and Langhart the Democrat prefer to be known "as a couple rather than an interracial couple," they also have joined the racial debate in this country. Langhart said pointedly, "African-Americans may be out of bondage, but intolerant people are still enslaved. If we leave somebody behind for something as ridiculous as skin color, we all lose."

Cohen is more circumspect. The hardest lesson he has learned, he said, is "that there are penalties associated with committing yourself to the truth." He added, "The abyss of contemporary life is when people who are conscious of their powers are denied their chance." But Bill Cohen now has the power and the chance to shape our security in a new world. The question is: What will he make of his chance? ■

Washington Times April 6, 1998 Pg. 1

Navy finds pregnancy put at risk by sea duty

Women sailors lose 4 of 10 fetuses

By Rowan Scarborough
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Navy's most comprehensive survey on the sex lives of men and women at sea has turned up some troubling trends on pregnancy loss, birth control and sailors' attitudes.

Four in 10 pregnancies for enlisted women on sea duty ended in miscarriage or abortion in 1996, compared with 23 percent for shore-assigned women, according to the results of the survey, a copy of which was obtained by The Washington Times.

Navywide, nearly two-thirds of enlisted women said their preg-

nancies were unplanned, and half that number were not using birth control.

A confidential report being circulated in the Pentagon urges Navy policy-makers to conduct a follow-up study to determine "why women who conceive while on sea duty suffer a higher level of fetal loss than peers."

The paper also recommends a two-step plan to reduce unplanned pregnancies: Expand birth-control education and explain why sailors need to "time pregnancies consistent with their Navy careers."

In 1995, Navy Secretary John Dalton issued a new pregnancy policy that declared the condition is compatible with a naval career. It directed that women be removed from ships at the 20th week of pregnancy.

Carmen Pate, president of Concerned Women for America, said in an interview that the new findings may mean the Navy needs to remove women sooner. She said the pressure to match the performance of men and the exposure to chemicals may be a factor in failed pregnancies.

"I know most women who are pregnant and who are not in military, you learn not to lift heavy things right from the beginning, not to put pressure on yourself," Mrs. Pate said.

She added, "The bottom line is, what causes pregnancy? Is it because of rampant promiscuity going on on these ships? You've got people away from home on a ship. They're in some exotic ports of call at times. They're boarding together on ships. When you have the emotions, the boredom, the stress, it's going to lead to sexual activity. Should we separate men and women? Of course. We believe they should be separated."

Cmdr. T. McCreary, spokesman for the Bureau of Naval Personnel, said the service so far does not know why women at sea reported more miscarriages and abortions.

"This study looked at the 'what,' and we were unable to look at the 'why' on this," he said. "This was a figure we thought was unique, too."

He said the Navy Bureau of Medicine will now study the "why," looking at lost fetus rates in all occupations over a longer period of time.

Cmdr. McCreary said a positive finding is that women at sea reported fewer pregnancies than those ashore. "Many, many women are trying to plan their pregnancies around shore duty," he said.

Of 51,337 Navy women, 9,497 — 8,625 enlisted and 872 officers — are on ships. Women have served on support ships since the 1970s and began manning combat ships like aircraft carriers and destroyers in 1994.

The Navy carried out the "Single Parenthood and Pregnancy Survey" a year ago in questionnaires mailed to 10,000 female and 6,000 male sailors. About one-half returned the survey on their sex and birth-control practices in 1996.

One key question confronting the Navy is whether pregnancy hurts readiness.

Results showed that pregnancy accounts for 8 percent of no-shows at the dock. Disciplinary action and medical problems caused 73 percent of sailors' failure to deploy.

"The survey itself didn't measure readiness vs. pregnancy," Cmdr. McCreary said. "But in all the surveys we've done, we haven't found any readiness impact at all as a result of pregnancy."

Among the survey's findings:

- The annual shipboard pregnancy rate of 11.8 percent compared with 17.3 percent for shore-duty enlisted women. The overall Navy rate of 15.2 percent is statistically the same as the civilian number.
- Female officers reported much lower percentages for pregnancies (2.5 percent), miscarriages and abortions (7 percent) and unplanned pregnancies (23 percent) than did enlisted women. A Navy official said this apparently shows they do a better job of planning pregnancies. But the official cautioned that the number of female officers at sea is so low the finding could be statistically insignificant.
- Enlisted women are more sexually active than female officers — 72 percent compared with 49 percent. Roughly 80 percent of both male officers and enlisted men reported being sexually active.
- Twenty-five percent of Navy men think Navy women should never have children. One-third of enlisted women "think they should have children whenever they want, regardless of their tour."
- Forty-three percent of enlisted men said they have had unprotected sex when they didn't want a pregnancy, compared with 33 percent of women.

Christian Science Monitor April 6, 1998 Pg. 1

Guns That A 'Grunt' Would Love

Jonathan S. Landay
Staff writer of The
Christian Science Monitor

WASHINGTON - FOR years, the United States has maintained its military superiority by harnessing new weapons technologies to tanks, ships, aircraft, and other major military hardware.

Now it's the grunt's turn to strap on this high-tech weaponry.

The Army this year is to begin equipping in a major way infantry units with miniature versions of devices that tankers, sailors, and pilots have long enjoyed. These night-vision scopes, day/night laser sights, and thermal imagers that detect humans by their heat will mount on the M-4 rifle. The new rifle is smaller but just as deadly as the Vietnam-era M-16, which is being retired.

New machine guns are also to be deployed.

But this is just the first phase of a multibillion-dollar effort. By 2006, when the Army fields a new generation of rifle capable of killing foes hiding around corners, officers say US ground troops will have undergone the most profound transformation in the way infantry forces fight since the introduction of the blitzkrieg in World War II.

"We are going to see a quantum leap," predicts Lt. Col. Paul Buckhout, the Army's coordinator of light infantry systems. "We will see significant increases in the lethality of our forces, pound for pound."

As the Army begins to integrate the technologies into training and tactics, officials expect to see a vital benefit - much lower casualties for US troops.

While testing is still under way, confidence is high is that the new weaponry will not only boost the infantry's firepower, but also allow it to engage enemies at longer distances and with more precision, day or night.

The Army's plans are moving forward amid an ongoing debate over the technology-driven revolution in military affairs and how it would affect the way the armed forces operate. Some defense officials have been arguing that with vast improvements in precision bombing, the Air Force could assume some of the traditional tasks of ground units, reducing the importance of the infantry.

But other experts reject that argument, saying advanced technologies will never compensate for the war-winning need of armies to capture and hold territory.

"The soldier is the one who has to take the ground and hold it, and nothing is going to change that," says Terry Gander, editor of Janes Infantry Weapons, a British military-

affairs publication.

Beyond weaponry

Other experts warn that the revolutionary potential of the new infantry technologies may not be realized unless the Army replaces its traditional operating doctrine. It would have to rely less on fielding huge mechanized formations, shifting instead to concepts that deal with a new range of post-cold-war challenges.

"The Army is doing the right kinds of things in terms of individual technologies," says Andrew Krepinevich, a former Pentagon planner who now heads the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Analysis, a Washington think tank. "But a critical question will be what kinds of operational challenges will they be seeing that they need to address."

For instance, he explains, as geopolitical alignments shift and overseas bases shut down in the wake of the cold war, the US may have trouble finding friendly territories where it can assemble huge mechanized forces, as it did in Saudi Arabia for the 1991 Gulf War.

The Army might cope with such contingencies by coupling the new infantry technologies with new operational concepts, such as lighter, smaller, and more mobile ground forces, says Mr. Krepinevich, a former Army lieutenant colonel.

Still, he agrees the new technologies have enormous promise. Among other advantages for the infantry, they would far outstrip the capabilities of night-vision and other devices that are now in the field. They are also far cheaper.

One of the most significant improvements, says Lieutenant Colonel Buckhout, will be on the infantry's ability to fight at night.

In the past, "when it came time to ... destroy the enemy, everybody would line up and we when sort of heard or saw something, we'd start firing," he says. "Now ... we can array ourselves on the battlefield at night, spread out, and move in teams without the risk of shooting each other. Not only will we be able to identify the enemy, but we can reach out and touch the enemy at a further distance."

The new technologies will also bolster the accuracy of infantry firepower, officers say. For instance, rather than having to line up his rifle's conventional rear and forward "iron" sights on a foe, a soldier will simply position on his target the red dot he sees in his laser sight.

Even as the Army begins deploying the new equipment, starting in 2000 it will be testing for fielding the systems developed in its "Land Warrior" program. These systems will effectively turn every foot soldier into a high-tech battle station.

The plugged-in soldier

The computer, communications, and other technologies will be standard issue and integrated into gear worn on a soldier's waist, back, shoulders, and head. They will plug him directly into some of the Army's most advanced command, control, and communications systems.

Wearing helmet-mounted eyepieces, troops will be able to call up maps and images taken by spy planes and satellites. They will be able to guide aircraft and shells into targets, tap into navigation satellites, and transmit to buddies, commanders, and far-off artillery and aircraft live pictures of enemy positions and movements, day or night.

These capabilities, predicts a senior Army officer, "will lift the fog of war."

Shooting around corners

In the next step, the Army plans to field by 2006 a new rifle into which will be integrated all of the individual devices the Army is beginning to deploy this year. But the so-called Objective Individual Combat Weapon (OICW) will go even further by effectively allowing its bearers to shoot around corners.

In addition to conventional bullets, the OICW will fire 20-mm rounds that can be programmed to explode in the air beside or above a target, raining deadly shrapnel into foes behind walls or rocks, or lying in trenches.

The rifle's built-in laser range finder will gauge the distance to the hiding place. It will then feed the information into a small computer, which will program the warhead in the 20-mm round to detonate at the right height and distance from the enemy soldier.

While all this sounds futuristic, the Pentagon last month awarded a contract for the OICW to Alliant Techsystems Corp. of Minneapolis after it developed a fully functioning prototype.

"Right now, a soldier has nothing to take out troops at 700 meters who are in defilade or hiding behind walls," explains Mike Moore, the firm's OICW program manager. "Now he has to call in artillery. We are going to give individual soldiers the ability to take out enemies in defilade without having to call in support."

"There are absolutely no technological barriers to fielding this thing," he says. With additional funds, he adds, the weapon could be deployed as many as three years earlier than planned.

Pacific Stars & Stripes April 7, 1998 Pg. 1

Army battles pilot shortage head-on

BY CHUCK VINCH
Stripes Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Air Force's exodus of fighter pilots has garnered a lot of news media attention over the last year, but a combat pilot drain in the Army is just as bad, service officials and aviators say.

Manning rates for the 900 warrant officers that fly the AH-64 Apache helicopter gunship, the Army's front-line combat aircraft, dipped from historically high levels of close to 100 percent to around 85 percent last fall.

The rates have crept back up to about 90 percent since then, but could drop again later this year as the Army begins to replace the "A" model Apache with the new AH-64D "Longbow" version, officials said.

The relatively high attrition rates stem from a shrinking assignment rotation cycle that has squeezed the normal 36-month stateside tour to around 24 months.

That translates into longer family separations for more frequent unaccompanied one-year tours in Korea, and "quasi-accompanied" tours in Europe that often entail multiple six-month stints in Bosnia.

Pilots say the open-ended mission in the Balkans has put a serious dent in morale, with some aviators serving one-half to two-thirds of their 36-month tour in Europe supporting the peacekeeping mission there.

Coupled with regular training deployments, "Apache pilots have been on the move," acknowledged Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ken Shannon, who heads the warrant officer leader development branch for the Total Army Personnel Command.

Attrition rates among chief warrant officer twos — those that the Army most wants to retain — shot up by about one-third to 11.8 percent in fiscal 1996, the year the Bosnia mission began. That rate crept up again last fiscal year to 12.4 percent.

"And unlike the Air Force pilots, there are no commercial airlines waiting for us," said one Apache pilot in Germany. "We're just getting out. I know more than 10 Apache pilots who have quit the Army, and only one is still flying helicopters."

A message sent in January to Lt. Gen. John Hendrix, commander of U.S. Army Europe's V Corps, that circulated in theater aviation units painted a stark picture.

Service officials said that the Army Aviation Center at Fort Rucker, Ala., produced 80 qualified Apache pilots in both fiscal 1996 and 1997. Over that same span, 240 pilots left the service — a net loss of 80 aviators.

Hendrix's terse reply: "Seri-

ous problem."

But it's not nearly the "gloom and doom" story it was a year ago, Shannon said.

"Because of some of the actions the leadership has taken, the attrition rate has slowed down," he said. "We think the worst is behind us now."

Last September, the service pulled instructor pilots from field units and sent them to the Army Aviation Center at Fort Rucker, Ala., to allow more new Apache pilots to be trained and certified.

The Army also opened a voluntary "recall to active duty" program that has attracted about 44 pilots — a full battalion's worth, Shannon said.

In another move, about 20 Apache slots in South Korea are being filled with National Guard and Reserve volunteers, which by itself adds about four to six months to the average stateside tour length, Shannon said.

But the action that is expected to have the most impact is the senior leadership's approval of a bonus of $12,000 a year for qualified Apache pilots in their eighth to 13th years of service. The lack of such a bonus has long irked Army aviators who have envied the big bucks reaped by their colleagues in the Air Force and Navy.

Apache pilots have closely followed the Air Force leadership's recent moves to reverse their own combat pilot shortages by boosting its bonus, cutting training deployments and limiting operational deployments to 45 days followed by a week off.

In comparison, Apache pilots who pull 180-day deployments in Bosnia now get no bonus and only a four-day pass when they get home.

"We'd trade Army green for Air Force blue in a heartbeat," said an AH-64 pilot in Vicenza, Italy.

Shannon said the bonus, expected to be in place for next fiscal year, is already having an effect on Apache attrition rates.

"Guys are deciding to hang on and get the bonus," he said. "We expect to have a fairly significant take rate." But another problem looms on the horizon — the fielding of the new AH-64D "Longbow" Apache, due to begin later this year and last through 2005.

In their message to V Corps' Hendrix, Army officials said that rotation turbulence during the Longbow phase-in could, in a worst-case scenario, cut average stateside tour lengths to as few as eight months.

The first two battalions to get the new Apache are in the States. "That means there will be two less 'A' model battalions to support the overseas structure," Shannon said. "As we do this conversion, that imbalance will fluctuate throughout the fleet."

The Army is banking on the bonus and the other retention programs that have been put in place to keep enough pilots in the force to ensure an adequate rotational flow.

"We've made significant headway," Shannon said. "We certainly don't want to do eight-month CONUS tours. We can't."

For pilots in the field, uncertainty lingers, exacerbated by shortages in maintenance personnel and funding. The situation is exacting a high toll.

Defense Daily April 6, 1998 Pg. 2

We Need Boots. Forget the Marine Corps' high technology needs like the LPD-17 class of amphibious transport docks. Marines need a "decent truck" and a "decent boot," says Lt. Gen. John Rhodes, the commander of the Marine Corps Combat Development Command. The current truck is 20 years old, and the Marines are just now receiving a new set of GoreTex boots--designed to be lighter and more resistant to the elements than the older models.

Inside the Army April 6, 1998 Pg. 1

Wilson cites deployment rates vs. spending share

AMC CHIEF WANTS DOD TO GRANT ARMY A BIGGER CUT OF THE DEFENSE BUDGET

The Defense Department budget must be realigned to allocate a larger amount of financial resources to the Army, even if it comes at the expense of the other services, says Army Materiel Command chief Gen. Johnnie Wilson.

In an interview last week with *Inside the Army*, Wilson confirmed he "most assuredly" supports giving the Army a large slice of the defense dollar pie, especially if the overall DOD budget does not increase. Furthermore, he believes the redistribution must take place even though it will certainly impact the Navy and the Air Force.

Similar opinions have been voiced before, but Army leaders have infrequently spoken of them in public. In fact, the Office of the Secretary of Defense recently cracked down on the Army for what some perceived as improper lobbying for additional funding.

But Army officials at all levels have privately complained for years that the service is shortchanged in the distribution of DOD spending, especially in light of deployments in recent years. Those deployments have taxed the Army more than any other service, and the future portends similar deployments.

"Since 1989 there have been 27 to 29 deployments. Your Army has been part of 70 percent or more of them," Wilson stated. "But if you take that activity and compare it against the DOD budget, your Army receives about 23 to 24 percent of the budget. So in my view there seems to be a requirement to redistribute the dollars and use a different formula."

The need to alter the funding structure is a direct result of the extraordinarily high operational tempo under which the Army now operates, asserted Wilson.

"When you look at where your Army is operating today, they're probably in over 60 countries throughout the world, whether they be in Macedonia, Bosnia, all of the different places. Now, granted, in many of those locations there are small numbers of U.S. Army troops, but the bottom line is that the operational tempo for us today is much greater than it has ever been and in my 36 plus years I have never seen the Army as busy as we are," he commented.

While some advocate pulling out of these operations, many of which are of a peacekeeping nature, in order to alleviate optempo and budget pressures, Wilson believes this is not an option. "All of those are good for mankind in that they provide stability and hope to many people who have never been able to realize the kinds of opportunities that we as Americans take for granted," he stated. "The question to America is 'do we as the only superpower in the world want to continue those kinds of efforts and initiatives?' and the answer would have to be yes -- because that's what we stand for.

"The next question is 'how do you resource those kinds of activities?'" he continued. "To do those functions that we, America, ask our military to do, we have to, in my mind, give them x number of people and the appropriate dollars. [We have] to insure that the military, especially the Army -- which is a married Army -- that [its] family members have the quality of life that they richly deserve . . . and that we provide to the young soldiers the appropriate equipment," Wilson commented. "Many trucks are 26-28 years old on average -- so we have young people coming into the Army who are driving the trucks that their father drove."

Continuing to represent America "throughout the world for the sake of freedom and all the good things we stand for" can only come at a cost, acknowledges Wilson. And for the Army, that price tag is 26 to 27 percent of the DOD budget, he asserts.

If the Army's role were altered, then that figure could be relooked, Wilson noted. "If you're going to change the optempo, then it's

O.K. to leave the budget like it is. If there's a decrease in the missions, then you have to look at the budget formula in a little different light."

Yet with no relief in sight, the reapportionment is legitimate, he emphasized. "It seems to me the budget needs to be given to the units based on the missions that they take on and it seems to me that's the only fair way to do it." -- *Erin Q. Winograd*

U.S. News & World Report April 13, 1998 Pg.36

The road to a new Balkan hell

Rebels in Kosovo are gaining arms and money -- some of it from America

By Philip G. Smucker

A Village Near Kukes, Albania--The smuggling operation began one day last week at dawn. A middle-aged man in civilian clothes directed as recruits stacked wooden crates onto two 10-ton trucks. Each of the green crates was roughly the size of a coffin. From here, the leader explained, the trucks would take back roads to the Yugoslav border. Then the cargo would be strapped onto mules for a 10-mile trek across the mountainous border into the embattled province of Kosovo. And there, deep in the woods, guerrillas of the Kosovo Liberation Army would open the crates and collect their prize: shoulder-fired, heat-seeking missiles capable of bringing down Serbian Army helicopters--or civilian airliners.

If the delivery was successful, the KLA is now equipped--for the first time, as far as Western governments are aware--with surface-to-air missiles, probably looted from Army depots when Albania was gripped by chaos a year ago. Until recently, the KLA was dismissed as a ragtag band that made rare appearances wearing black ski masks. Today it is a serious fighting force carrying Kalashnikov rifles and walkie-talkies, wearing uniforms with the insignia of a black, double-headed eagle on a red background, and funded by donations from around the world, including Albanian-American sympathizers in the United States.

The KLA is fighting for the independence of Kosovo, a region half the size of New Jersey that is inside Serbia but has a long, rugged, porous border with Albania. More than 80 percent of Kosovo's 2 million people are ethnically Albanian, and they governed themselves with relative autonomy until 1989, when Serbia's nationalist leader, Slobodan Milosevic, dissolved the regional parliament and imposed a virtual police state.

Born from that repression in the early 1990s, the KLA was an almost invisible presence until last autumn, when it conducted a series of hit-and-run attacks on Serbian police barracks and ambushed a column of 10 armored personnel carriers. This February and March, Serbian police responded with customary brutality: Using tanks and helicopters, Serbian units surrounded Kosovo villages, pounded the homes of suspected guerrillas with gunfire, and summarily executed some men and boys. Among the 80 dead were women and children as well as a KLA leader, Adem Jashari, and 20 members of his family in the village of Prekaz.

The crackdown, however, seems only to have galvanized the guerrillas and their supporters. Though the KLA is believed to have only a few hundred full-time fighters, it is now rapidly gaining popular support in Kosovo, along with weapons from across the border in Albania and money from Albanian émigré communities, especially those in Switzerland and Germany. Within a week of the massacre in Prekaz,the 350,000-strong Albanian community in America also sent nearly $1.5 million to Kosovo, according to Sami Repishti, president of the National Albanian American Council, a lobbying group. While those funds were carefully directed to humanitarian aid and nonviolent political groups, Repishti says the KLA also quietly solicited individual donors. "They know the people who have money," he says.

At one Albanian community meeting in New York City, KLA representatives from Switzerland gathered $16,000 in pledges, according to Illyria, an Albanian-American newspaper in the Bronx.

Balkan Gandhi. The newfound support for the KLA has come at the expense of the nonviolent resistance long espoused by Ibrahim Rugova, who has led a shadow government in Kosovo since autonomy was revoked and who is often called "the Gandhi of the Balkans." At a clandestine meeting in the back room of an Albanian bar last week, a KLA leader whose nom de guerre is Black Eagle warned that Rugova's policy of "demobilization" could result in his assassination by fellow Albanians. Jabbing his finger at a map of Yugoslavia, Black Eagle also said that if Milosevic continues "tactics of terror" against Kosovo, the KLA will "take blood revenge in Belgrade and every other Serb city."

Those might have been dismissed as empty threats a few months ago. But the U.S. government, for one, is taking the danger of a runaway cycle of violence quite seriously. "The result could be a full-fledged civil war, putting at risk the peace in Bosnia and spreading conflict like an infectious disease to neighboring states," Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said last week. "This escalating violence is the road back to hell."

Firefights between KLA and Serbian forces, which took place about once a month last year, now occur almost nightly. Though outgunned by the 20,000 Serbian troops in Kosovo, the guerrillas take heart from the victory of Chechen rebels over the Russian Army. "For every Albanian killed on his own land, the Serbs will pay with more than one life," vows Rruzhdi Saramati, 46, who calls himself a KLA reservist and has helped smuggle weapons into Kosovo from Albania, where he lives.

The KLA's main weakness is training. It is organized around clandestine "village self-defense" units, generally young men with no military experience. Even some of the KLA's supporters are critical of its tactics, which they say endanger women and children. "If they were a sophisticated guerrilla organization, they certainly wouldn't wait for the Serbs to surround them and then fight out of their own homes," said Adem Demaci, an ethnic Albanian leader in Kosovo's capital, Pristina, who spent 27 years in jail as a political prisoner and has been increasingly outspoken in his praise for the KLA. "They are a little naive."

Although the Albanian government does not support the KLA, many individual Albanians do. A policeman in the Kukes region, for example, admitted that he has helped rebels cross the frontier.

To put pressure on Milosevic to halt repression in Kosovo, the United Nations Security Council imposed a new arms embargo on Yugoslavia last week. But it is unlikely to have much impact on either side. The Serbs are already well armed. And when Albania's government collapsed last year in rioting over pyramid investment schemes, an estimated 700,000 Chinese-made Kalashnikov assault rifles were stolen from military stockpiles. Efforts by Kosovo Albanians to buy up those weapons have driven the price of a used AK-47 from $15 last year to more than $100 this year.

"What if we have 400,000 Kalashnikovs? What will Slobodan Milosevic do with us then?" asked Black Eagle, cracking a smile for the first time.

With Philippe Moulier in Washington

Washington Times
April 5, 1998 Pg. 8

NATO may set up office in Albania

BRUSSELS — NATO could set up a temporary office in Tirana, capital of Albania, to coordinate

the alliance's aid to the Balkan country, a NATO official says.

Albania is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Partnership for Peace program, and the office would be used to centralize the program's initiatives, including the work of eight delegations of experts due to visit the country.

The first delegation of experts arrived in Tirana Monday.

The office would not be permanent, the official said under the condition of anonymity, and could not be used as a precedent by other members of the partnership that want to see an office established in their country.

NATO is planning a military exercise in Albania next year, the official said.

New York Times April 6, 1998

Ranks of Albanian Rebels Increase in Kosovo

By Chris Hedges

JABLANICA, Yugoslavia -- A gaunt, nervous rebel with a scraggly black beard and a large hunting knife protruding from one of the pockets of his vest pulled a chrome-plated pistol from his belt as two dozen guerrillas ambled from nearby farmhouses to join him.

"This is our territory," he said. "We are through with these Albanian intellectuals in Pristina, with journalists, diplomats and everyone else. No one saved our women and children from slaughter. Now it is up to us."

The once-elusive guerrilla bands from the Kosovo Liberation Army, who are fighting for an independent state in this Serbian province, are suddenly ubiquitous. Rebel groups that a few weeks ago numbered four or five guerrillas have quadrupled in size, swelled in part by an infusion of new troops and weapons smuggled over the border from Albania.

There are also indications that the guerrillas have been joined by foreign mercenaries. The rapid and startling growth of the armed insurgency has prompted fears that the unrest in the province could explode into the next Balkan war.

The guerrillas move within a few hundred yards of sandbagged police checkpoints and open fire frequently on passing police convoys. They wear uniforms with red, green, black and white splotches, as well as arm patches with the black, double-headed Albanian eagle and cradle new, well-oiled assault rifles. On the ridge tops above them other rebels, including adolescent boys, man machine guns from newly dug trenches.

Assault rifles are casually slung over the shoulders of nearly every ethnic Albanian male in these mountains, including those in the cordoned-off Drenica triangle, about 25 miles west of Pristina.

Many interviews with rebels over the last week suggest that the guerrillas have been joined by foreign mercenaries whose heavily accented Albanian, as well as their appearance and martial demeanor, suggests experience in other war zones.

Many ethnic Albanians roaming the hills said they quit their menial jobs in Germany or Switzerland when the Serbian counterinsurgency sweeps that left at least 80 people dead began last month. They traveled to Albania, where they hastily collected uniforms and weapons, and crossed the rugged frontier with pack mules bringing in fresh arms and ammunition.

Rebel leaders, they contend, have been busily signing up recruits and collecting contributions worth hundreds of thousands of dollars from the more than 600,000 ethnic Albanian refugees and seasonal workers in Europe to prosecute the war.

"I came back as soon as I saw the pictures of the massacres, the destroyed houses and the bodies of the women and children," said a rebel wearing a black ski mask. "I left everything in Germany when I understood what the Serbs were doing to my people. It was my duty. We will fight until the last of us is dead. We have little interest in speaking. We are fighters."

In the indiscriminate killings by hundreds of heavily armed Serbian police and paramilitary units last month, more than half of the victims were women and children. The death of so many noncombatants has enraged a population fed up with heavy-handed police rule and life as second-class citizens in the Serbian state.

"We laid flowers today on the desks on nine of our pupils who were murdered by the Serbs," a 49-year-old teacher at the Petro Marko elementary school in Srbica said as he wiped away his tears. "None of us could teach and none of the students could study. We are overcome by grief for our little ones and hatred for our enemy."

The Serbs, rather than hunt down armed groups, blasted villages into rubble with 20-millimeter cannon, grenade launchers and .50-caliber machine guns. Those trapped in the houses died and many of those who fled were gunned down, according to witnesses. Many bodies, laid out at mass funerals, bore signs of mutilation and summary execution.

Serbian officials have tried to blame the rebel fighters for the carnage, saying the guerrillas executed those who tried to run away.

The police remain in heavily fortified emplacements in the province, despite calls from abroad that they be withdrawn. In many villages, like Jablanica, about 30 miles northwest of Djakovica, women and children have been sent away to live with relatives in anticipation of the looming combat.

"You have to wonder if the Serbs had any idea what they were doing when they shot their way in here last month," said a Western diplomat who is in Pristina, Kosovo's capital, monitoring the conflict. "They will have to keep hundreds of police deployed for the next 30 years or accept that parts of this province will be ceded to the rebels."

The ethnic Albanians, who make up 90 percent of Kosovo's 2 million people, had their autonomy stripped by Belgrade in 1989 when they began to call for an independent state. A shadow government led by Ibrahim Rugova has mounted a disciplined program of civic resistance that has seen the ethnic Albanians boycott all state institutions, set up their own schools and administration, and collect taxes.

The failure after eight years to achieve independence, coupled with the police sweeps, appears to have doomed the peaceful resistance. Many of the funds collected for the administration among ethnic Albanians abroad are being diverted to the coffers of the rebel movement, according to officials close to Rugova.

The sound of automatic-weapons fire, along with the whoosh and detonation of mortar rounds, punctuates most days and nights in the rolling, dun-colored hillsides.

A group of four guerrillas, drawing on cigarettes within sight of a hilltop position manned by the Serbian police, listened nonchalantly on their walkie-talkies to the chatter on the police radios. The rebel patrol, which refused to permit a photographer to take pictures, was curt and abrupt.

"We know how many police are in each position, when the shifts change, when the convoy with the supplies arrives at the checkpoint and what kind of weapons the enemy uses," a rebel soldier said. "We are growing in strength each day."

On March 29 dozens of uniformed rebels, in one of the first large armed gatherings in the province, converged on a village northeast of Djakovica to attend the funeral of a rebel fighter, according to villagers who witnessed the midnight burial.

The rebel movement, sustained by a sympathetic rural population, is equipped with little more than AK-47 assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades. It has carried out numerous attacks over the last year against the Serbian police, senior Serbian officials and ethnic Albanians accused of collaborating with the Serbian

government.

Many of the ethnic Albanians who were thus killed worked as foresters, a job that would allow them to view the smuggling of arms over the rugged border with Albania.

It remains unclear if the rebels are organized under a central command and what, if any, long-term strategy they have embraced. Many vowed this week to protect the villages they control -- a tactic, given the superior firepower of the Serbs, that could be costly.

Other groups roam the back roads, rarely sleep in the same place for long and can turn up miles from where they were seen two or three days earlier. In this village last week, for example, were three rebels who were sighted the previous week in the Drenica region, about 40 miles away.

The armed movement has no political wing. At its head are many left-wing radicals, most based in Europe, who have called for armed rebellion for decades. These militants, old Marxist-Leninists, were in the past supported by Enver Hoxha, the hard-line communist leader of Albania who died in 1985.

The fighters in the hills, however, are often conservative peasants whose fathers and grandfathers fought with fascist Italy against the Serbs during World War II and who remain tied to old monarchist movements. Many of these guerrillas are religious Muslims who carry Korans in their uniforms.

"This ideological division is probably why the Kosovo Liberation Army has yet to form a political wing," a Western diplomat said. "These two political factions can agree on only one thing: driving out the Serbs."

Washington Times
April 6, 1998 Pg. 1

Saudis move closer to Iran

Urge U.S. to help Tehran 'open up'

By Richard Engel
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

CAIRO — Saudi Arabia is seeking to engineer a diplomatic opening to Iran and hopes the United States will also help Tehran to "open up to the world," says a senior member of the Saudi royal family.

Saudi Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz, brother of King Fahd, said in an interview that ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran have grown stronger since Iran's former president, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, visited the kingdom for two weeks in early March. It was the highest-level visit by an Iranian since the fall of the shah in 1979.

There have been other top-level visits since, the latest on Saturday by Iranian Interior Minister Abdollah Nouri, who thanked the king for helping Iranian pilgrims visiting Mecca, the Al-Riyadh newspaper reported.

Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi also received a warm welcome when he visited Saudi Arabia in mid-March.

Asked whether the rash of visits represents the start of a new relationship with Iran — a country the United States accuses of sponsoring international terrorism — Prince Talal said, "Yes, I think it is a big opening."

Relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran have been strained since the 1979 Iranian revolution, which raised fears among many of the Gulf royals that Iran might try to export its revolution to their lands.

The election last May of reform-minded Iranian President Mohammed Khatami, however, has encouraged much of the Arab world to rethink relations.

Iran's new government "is making an internal and external opening. Our relationship is developing with President Khatami of Iran," said the prince, who was interviewed at the Cairo office of the Arab Council for Childhood and Development, which he heads.

Egypt has also expressed a desire to improve relations with Iran. After Iran successfully hosted an Organization of Islamic Conferences meeting in December, there was talk in Egypt about restoring full diplomatic relations with Iran, though interest in the idea seems to have faded.

A well-placed Saudi source said the kingdom hopes that by improving relations with Iran, a strict Islamic state, it will win favor with its increasingly unhappy population. Many Saudis resent the nation's friendship with the United States, which they see as beholden to Israel and the international Zionist movement.

Prince Talal called on Washington to help Iran return to the world community and suggested that the process has already begun.

"America is opening a representative office in the Swiss Embassy in Tehran, and it allowed Americans to go to Iran due to the fact that they were encouraged by Khatami's government," he said, referring to a delegation of American wrestlers who visited Iran in February.

A return visit of Iranian wrestlers to the United States was marred last week when members of the team were fingerprinted and photographed on their arrival at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, angering Iranian officials.

Prince Talal said Saudi Arabia "is playing a role in Iran's opening up to the world. It is not in our interest to have conflict with Iran. America must help Khatami in his policies.

"Iran is a huge country — 65 million [people]. It has a rich history and civilization. It has resources and influence in the region. It is in the U.S. interest to help Iran open up to the world and to establish a strategic relationship with Iran, rather than a tactical one," he said.

As for relations with Iraq, the other state the United States hopes to control with its Middle East strategy of "dual containment," the prince said it is unlikely that Iraq will be welcomed back into the Arab fold as long as Iraqi strongman Saddam Hussein remains in power.

"I do not see the return of Iraq with Saddam Hussein in the Arab interest because the Iraqi leadership has committed foolish actions not in the interest of the Arab world. How can the Iraqi leadership return to the Arab fold when it has not changed its attitude?" he asked.

In the hourlong interview, Prince Talal sought to ease fears in Washington about future relations between Saudi Arabia and the United States, stressing that the kingdom will remain a strong American ally either with the current or successor monarchs.

"I expect no major changes [in Saudi policy] toward the U.S. It has been a strategic relationship since 1945. This is the reality of the situation.

"Anyone who calls for change is shouting slogans that mean nothing," said Prince Talal, adding that Saudi Arabia has "no difference of opinion with the U.S." about America's military presence in Saudi Arabia, popularly opposed by the

Saudi people.

"There is no problem with the U.S. protecting its interests in the Gulf. America is a superpower and has interests and we respect those interests and we have no difference of opinion with the U.S. on the fact that they seek to protect their interests in the region with a military presence," he said.

The prince, a member of the powerful family council comprising the sons of Saudi Arabia's founder, King Abdul Aziz, said the Arab people oppose U.S. military bases in the Gulf because they perceive U.S. foreign policy to be unjust.

"[But] when U.S. policy becomes just and fair towards the region, we can say with the loudest voice, 'welcome' to the military presence in the region to protect its interests," the prince said.

Saudi Arabia and other Arab states believe U.S. policy in the Middle East favors Israel and that the United States has failed to stand up to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whom they blame for the stalemate in the peace process.

Prince Talal, who has at times fallen out of favor with the royal family because of his calls for democratic reform, noted the creation of a Shura Council to advise the king and to take other steps toward democratization, but said more needs to be done.

"We will reach full elections one day, as is required by the people and educated elite of the Arab world," he said, adding that he believes general elections "could happen in five to 10 years."

New York Times April 4, 1998 Pg. 4

U.N. Teams Find Nothing At Iraqi Sites

(AP) BAGHDAD, Iraq, April 3 -- United Nations arms experts inspected each of the 1,058 buildings inside President Saddam Hussein's eight presidential compounds but found no prohibited material during eight days of searches, an American weapons inspector said today.

The inspectors, however, had not expected to find much at the sites and repeatedly said they wanted to set a precedent of entering sites that Iraq had long said were off limits as symbols of national sovereignty.

The visits, which began on March 26, were a key test of the accord between the United Nations and Iraq intended to "establish our right to unrestricted access," said Charles Duelfer, the deputy chairman of the United Nations Special Commission, which is charged with dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Iraq said the fact that nothing was found contradicted American and British accusations that the sites contained stockpiles of illegal weapons. It urged the Security Council to lift the sweeping United Nations sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

"What has been achieved is a triumph for the truth over falsehood," Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz was quoted as saying by the official Iraqi News Agency. "The visit has verified Iraq's credibility."

The work of the inspectors at other, less sensitive sites is far from over. Richard Butler, the chief arms inspector, has said Iraq still needs to provide more proof to back its claim that it has destroyed all of its nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

Until the inspectors confirm that Iraq has destroyed or has dismantled all its long-range missiles and major weapons, the Security Council will not lift the economic sanctions.

The inspections began with a visit to the Radwaniyah palace in Baghdad. They continued in the north and south and ended in the capital with inspections on Wednesday and Thursday of the Sijood Palace and the Republican Palace, which serves as the seat of Government.

Most of the buildings were empty except for a few in the main Republican Palace compound, Mr. Duelfer said. There, inspectors came across furniture and office supplies, he said, but he declined to be more specific.

Mr. Duelfer also refused to speculate on why the buildings were bare. But Iraqi officials said many of the buildings were emptied months ago when tension rose over Iraq's refusal to grant access to the palaces and Iraq feared an attack on the sites.

The 71 United Nations arms monitors who took part in the survey had "access to every building that we wanted," Mr. Duelfer said.

The most sensitive site was the Republican Palace, a one-square-mile compound that houses Mr. Hussein's main office, overlooking the Tigris River.

The Iraqis opened parts of the compound only to Mr. Duelfer, two other senior arms experts and Jayantha Dhanapala, the leader of a diplomatic group monitoring the visits, Mr. Duelfer said.

High-ranking Iraqi officials, including Mr. Aziz, were present during most of the inspections, he added.

Under the agreement, reached on Feb. 23, Mr. Dhanapala's diplomatic group had to escort the inspectors, who spent about 10 hours at each site. Mr. Duelfer said their presence was essential to solving "a number of problems," but he did not elaborate.

The United Nations Secretary General's envoy in Baghdad, Prakash Shah, said that "some blips did occur" during the inspections, but that they were sorted out in the presence of the diplomats.

The diplomats are to leave Baghdad on Saturday after completing a report that Mr. Dhanapala will submit to Secretary General Kofi Annan in New York next week. The inspectors are also to leave on Saturday, and no date has been announced for future visits.

Mr. Butler is to present a progress report to the Council next week.

USA Today April 6, 1998 Pg. 10

Netanyahu: Palestinians not serious on terrorism

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu charged Sunday that an explosion March 29 that killed a senior Islamic militant in the West Bank was new proof that Palestinian police were not fighting terrorism seriously. Netanyahu told his Cabinet that the blast took place at an explosives factory that operated with impunity in the Palestinian-run city of Ramallah. Netanyahu also reaffirmed his government's denial of any role in the death of Mohiyedine Sharif, the top Hamas bomb-maker. Israel says Sharif was killed when a bomb he was building blew up prematurely. A Palestinian autopsy, however, said Sharif was shot and his body dumped in a booby-trapped car.

New York Times April 4, 1998 Pg. 1

Companies Are Investigated For Aid to China on Rockets

By Jeff Gerth with Raymond Bonner

WASHINGTON, April 3 -- A Federal grand jury is investigating whether two American companies illegally gave China space expertise that significantly advanced Beijing's ballistic missile program, according to Administration officials.

But the officials said the criminal inquiry was dealt a serious blow two months ago when President Clinton quietly approved the export to China of similar technology by one of the companies under investigation.

The decision was opposed by Justice Department officials, who argued that it would be much more difficult to prose-

cute the companies if the Government gave its blessing to the deal, the officials said.

Under investigation, the officials said, are Loral Space and Communications of Manhattan and Hughes Electronics, a Los Angeles-based division of the General Motors Corporation. The companies denied wrongdoing, but declined to discuss the investigation.

Loral has numerous business deals with China and close ties to the White House. Its chairman and chief executive, Bernard L. Schwartz, was the largest personal contributor to the Democratic National Committee last year.

Loral's vice president for government relations, Thomas B. Ross, said Mr. Schwartz had not spoken about the matter with Mr. Clinton or any other Administration official.

The Federal inquiry stems from a 1996 incident in which a Chinese rocket carrying aloft a satellite built by Loral exploded shortly after liftoff. The two companies took part in an independent review of the failure, and reported to the Chinese on what went wrong.

Those exchanges, officials believe, may have gone beyond the sharing of information that the companies had been permitted, giving the Chinese crucial assistance in improving the guidance systems of their rockets. The technology needed to put a commercial satellite in orbit is similar to that which guides a long-range nuclear missile to its target.

In February, with the investigation of this incident well under way, Mr. Clinton gave Loral permission to launch another satellite on a Chinese rocket and provide the Chinese with the same expertise that is at issue in the criminal case, officials said.

A senior official said the Administration recognized the sensitivity of the decision, but approved the launching because the investigation had reached no conclusions and because Loral had properly handled subsequent launchings. The Administration, he said, could still take administrative action against the companies if they were found to have violated export laws in their earlier dealings with the Chinese.

Michael D. McCurry, the White House spokesman, said the launching that President Clinton approved in February "will not contribute to Chinese military capabilities" because Loral has agreed to "stringent safeguards" to prevent the unauthorized transfer of technology.

Emery Wilson, public relations manager for Hughes Space and Communications, a division of Hughes Electronics, said the company had not been notified of any Federal criminal investigation.

"In response to a letter from the State Department," Mr. Wilson said, "we conducted a thorough review and concluded that no Hughes employee had engaged in the unauthorized export of controlled technology or equipment."

The Administration has been hoping to reach a broader agreement with Beijing that would make it much easier to launch American satellites on China's rockets. Mr. Clinton is to visit China this summer in the first Presidential trip to the country since the suppression of the pro-democracy movement in the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre.

There are huge commercial interests at stake. A host of companies, from cellular telephone networks to international television conglomerates, are waiting in line for low-cost satellites to be sent into orbit. An important bottleneck facing the companies is a shortage of rocket systems available to launch satellites.

China is eager to offer its low-cost -- but not always reliable -- services.

For American companies, there is a significant complication. All American satellites sent into orbit by China's rockets require Presidential approval, a waiver of the sanctions imposed after the Tiananmen massacre. Congress must be told of each waiver. Thus far, Presidents Bush and Clinton have issued 11 waivers for satellite launchings.

The policy under consideration by the Clinton Administration would end the case-by-case waivers and would treat future launchings of American satellites like any other export of sensitive technology, which require Government licenses.

Critics in Congress argue that Mr. Clinton is putting commercial interests ahead of national security. They caution that China has yet to prove it will abide by previous pledges it has made not to share missile technology with countries like Iran.

Few nations can deliver intercontinental ballistic missiles. China has lagged because, among other reasons, it lacks the guidance technology, also used for satellites, that allows multiple warheads to be sent from a single missile.

President Clinton signed the waiver to allow the Loral satellite launching on Feb. 18. The waiver states states that the deal is "in the national interest."

"We are more engaged with China," Mr. McCurry said. "One area of that engagement has been commercial satellite technology, which we perceive to be in our interests as well as that of China's."

But law-enforcement officials argued against the waiver, saying the approval jeopardized their investigation because it sanctioned the export of essentially the same guidance expertise involved in the possibly illegal transfer two years ago, Administration officials say.

Administration officials said the inquiry is focused on the events following the Feb. 15, 1996, explosion of a Chinese rocket carrying a $200 million Loral satellite seconds after liftoff at the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Sichuan Province, in southern China.

After the explosion, the Chinese asked two American companies to help conduct an independent study of what went wrong. The team was led by Loral and included two experts from Hughes, according to Hughes.

According to Administration officials, the American experts provided crucial data and information to the Chinese to prevent future accidents. Later, Loral gave a copy of the written report to the State Department, which licenses the export of defense-related items.

Government officials immediately began to assess whether there had been a security breach. Last year, a criminal inquiry was begun by the United States Customs Service and the Department of Justice, officials said.

Under Federal export rules, American companies are supposed to take careful precautions to safeguard classified technology when their satellites are launched by Chinese rockets.

Satellites are shipped to China in sealed containers, and only American officials can mount them in the nose cones of the launching rockets. The Commerce Department approves the export of the satellites. But the more sensitive support activities must be approved by the State Department.

That process is meant to insure tight controls over the testing, repair and maintenance of the satellite so the Chinese cannot learn related classified information.

The State Department license issued several years ago for the Loral satellite was silent on the issue of what role, if any, the American experts could play in an analysis of a failed launching.

After United States companies took part in more than one study of failed Chinese launchings, the Federal Government changed its regulations and now requires companies to obtain a separate license to take a role in any accident review, an Administration official said.

New York Times
April 4, 1998 Pg. 1

C.I.A. Charges Dismissed Spy Yielded Secrets

By Tim Weiner

WASHINGTON, April 3 -- A veteran officer of the Central Intelligence Agency, enraged by his dismissal, tried to extort $500,000 from the C.I.A. in exchange for his loyalty and, when the agency would not buy his silence, told two foreign nations how the United States spied on them, officials said today.

The case of Douglas F. Groat, 50, who was arrested on Thursday, is the third in four years involving major espionage at the C.I.A. Mr. Groat, a $70,000-a-year technician who had worked undercover abroad for most of his 16 years at the

agency before he was dismissed in October 1996, faces the death penalty if convicted of spying.

The Director of Central Intelligence, George J. Tenet, called the case "extremely serious" but said he did not yet know how deep the damage ran.

The C.I.A. is still recovering from the treason of one turncoat, Aldrich H. Ames, who caused the deaths of a dozen foreign agents, and another, Harold J. Nicholson, who gave Russia the names of three years' worth of graduates from the agency's school for spies.

"During Groat's employment with the C.I.A.," said Wilma A. Lewis, the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, "he participated in classified covert operations aimed at the penetration of cryptographic systems of foreign governments." In other words, Mr. Groat's job was to be a thief, stealing and cracking secret codes.

Mr. Groat, an Army officer, a police officer, a county sheriff's process server, a prison guard and a United States marshal in the eight years before he joined the C.I.A. in 1980, stands accused of extraordinary crimes of espionage.

Code-stealing and code-breaking are among the most secret operations of United States intelligence. They allow the United States to read the mail and eavesdrop on the conversations of foreign governments. Disclosing the ways in which United States intelligence does this work could shut down operations aimed at the governments under surveillance. The statutes forbidding those disclosures allow the death penalty for doing so.

Shortly after noon today, in a Federal courtroom shielded by thick, bulletproof glass, Mr. Groat, wearing blue prison garb, a short beard and a dark mien, entered a plea of not guilty through a public defender.

Eric Dubelier, an assistant United States Attorney, had no problem persuading Judge Norma Holloway Johnson of Federal District Court here to order Mr. Groat held without bond. Mr. Dubelier called the defendant "a danger to the community."

"He is trained in traveling in false identity, and deception," the prosecutor said. "He has no ties to the community and he possesses sensitive classified information."

The Justice Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, whose agents arrested Mr. Groat, were unusually secretive about the case. They said that to disclose which nations were tipped off by Mr. Groat, or where he had served overseas, would gravely endanger American national security.

Ms. Lewis called the case "an extremely sensitive matter." Mr. Dubelier said the Government would invoke the Classified Information Procedures Act, which is designed to shield Government secrets from disclosure at a public trial.

The Government unsealed an indictment today containing a few bare facts. Only four pages long, it said that in March and April 1997, Mr. Groat had told two foreign governments about how the United States went about "the targeting and compromise of the cryptographic systems" those nations used. That the charges were brought in the District of Columbia strongly suggested that Mr. Groat had approached two foreign embassies within the capital, offering secrets.

The indictment ended with a startling paragraph charging that for nearly two years, from before his dismissal until a few weeks ago, Mr. Groat threatened to tell foreign intelligence services what he knew unless the C.I.A. paid him "for his silence in excess of five hundred thousand dollars." The accusation of blatant extortion by an intelligence officer is unique in the publicly recorded history of the C.I.A. It is unclear how Mr. Groat is believed to have made his threats, although it appears likely that he made them without revealing his identity to the C.I.A.

Mr. Tenet spoke to the agency's employees for about five minutes on a closed-circuit broadcast at the C.I.A.'s headquarters in Langley, Va., at about 12:30 P.M. today, as Mr. Groat's court session ended.

"While the allegations in the case are very serious," Mr. Tenet said, "I want you to know that I know that this is not a reflection on you -- the most dedicated, loyal and honorable group of men and women I have ever known."

But the case, if proven, may reflect poorly on the handling of a distressed, disgruntled and dismissed intelligence officer. It will inevitably be compared to the strange career of Mr. Ames, a C.I.A. officer arrested in February 1994 and serving a life sentence. Mr. Ames spied undetected for Moscow for nearly nine years, rising to extremely sensitive positions despite his drunkenness, sloth and seething resentment at the agency. It may also be measured against the betrayal of Mr. Nicholson, a former station chief who sold a wealth of knowledge to Russian intelligence, starting weeks after Mr. Ames pleaded guilty. Mr. Nicholson is serving a term of more than 23 years.

The case also revealed an aspect of the agency's work that it never discusses publicly: eavesdropping on allies and enemies alike with electronic technicians.

Unlike Mr. Ames and Mr. Nicholson, who worked in the C.I.A.'s directorate of operations, Mr. Groat worked at the little-known directorate of science and technology. The directorate is concerned largely with inventing new gadgets and using existing ones to spy on people, places and things of interest to United States intelligence. Its personnel stationed overseas often use a thin cover, posing as Government "communications officers."

Mr. Groat's resume suggests he never found his station in life until he joined the C.I.A. He was born in 1948 in Niskayuna, N.Y., and graduated from Scotia High School, outside Schenectady, in 1965. He enlisted in the Army in 1967, was commissioned as a second lieutenant and left active duty as a captain in 1972. He attended at least three colleges before obtaining a liberal arts degree from the State University of New York in 1978.

Between 1972, when he left the Army, and 1980, when he joined the C.I.A., he held four law-enforcement jobs, none for long: as a police officer in Glenville, N.Y., between 1973 and 1976; after graduating from college, as a process server and a correctional officer for the Schenectady County sheriff, and as a United States marshal based in Phoenix.

Entering the C.I.A. in May 1980, he spent most of the next 13 years as a technical operations officer.

Something went wrong for Mr. Groat in 1993 -- citing privacy laws, the agency would not say today what -- and he spent the next three years on administrative leave, losing his fight against dismissal in October 1996. A few weeks before that, he was divorced. By then, the indictment charges, he was already extorting the C.I.A. and threatening treason.

Washington Post April 4, 1998 Pg. 7

Cohen Releases $2 Billion For Naval Strike Aircraft

Associated Press

Defense Secretary William S. Cohen cleared the way yesterday for the Navy to spend $2 billion on building an additional 20 F/A-18 E and F model fighters, the service's premier strike aircraft.

The decision puts Cohen's imprimatur on the program, which had to overcome a performance problem known as "wing drop." The problem had caused the aircraft to lose lift and bank unexpectedly during certain maneuvers, but the Navy said it had addressed the problem by placing a special metal panel on the wing.

"I am confident that the Navy's modification to the F/A-18E/F wing is a suitable and cost-effective solution to the wing-drop issue," Cohen said in a statement yesterday.

In February, Cohen sent a stern signal to the Navy and Boeing Co., which builds the plane, saying during Capitol

Hill testimony that he would withhold the $2 billion if the problem couldn't be solved to his satisfaction.

The plane is a larger and more modern version of the F/A-18C/D Hornets, which are the backbone of the Navy's carrier-based fleet. The new "Super Hornet" is billed as providing longer range, better ability to evade radar and higher performance. Besides being able to carry a greater range of weapons, it also is able to return to the carrier without having dropped many of its bombs, giving planners greater flexibility in using high-cost weapons.

The Navy expects the aircraft to form the bulk of its carrier-based air fleet by 2008.

U.S. News & World Report April 13, 1998 Pg. 9

In search of closure

The renewed pitch last week by Defense Secretary William Cohen to close more military bases has a slim chance of succeeding in Congress, according to supporters of the measure.

Cohen and other defense experts argue that even having slated nearly 100 bases for closure since 1988, the Defense Department's infrastructure is still bloated and diverts $3 billion a year from vital weapons programs.

Cohen wants two additional closure rounds, in 2001 and 2005. But the political cost of losing bases--and jobs--in congressional districts is so high that members of Congress "would rather spend more money on defense than do another [round of closures]," says one supporter. Elections this year make Hill approval even less likely.

San Diego Union-Tribune April 5, 1998

A.F. training planes may get parachutes

Knight Ridder

The Air Force is considering attaching parachutes to academy training planes that have crashed three times, killing six people.

The exterior parachute, a relatively new safety device, would slow the plane's fall in a crash. It is among several options the Air Force is looking at for the troubled T-3A Firefly, which has been grounded since June.

The parachute is one of many "lightweight safety systems" the Air Force is considering for the Firefly, said Dave Smith, spokesman for the Air Education & Training Command at Randolph Air Force Base in Texas.

From February 1995 to June 1997, three of the planes crashed, killing three cadets and three instructor pilots.

London Sunday Times April 5, 1998 Pg. 1

Army to lift ban on gay soldiers

by Hugh McManners
Defence Correspondent

THE army is to allow homosexuals to join up for the first time. Senior generals are set to approve proposals reversing the ban on homosexuals in the armed forces, allowing gay men and women to enlist.

The policy change, which will cause controversy throughout the services, is expected to be endorsed by the executive committee of the Army Board, consisting of six generals and one senior civil servant.

The Royal Navy and Royal Air Force are not immediately expected to follow suit, and gay activist groups may oppose the army's move on the grounds that it discriminates against "active" homosexuals.

The proposal coincides with increasing political and legal pressure on the military to reverse the ban on gays in service. More than 50 cases alleging sexual discrimination against the forces by gay personnel are being taken to the courts. The first is expected to be heard in the European Court of Human Rights this autumn.

The new proposals would allow homosexual men and women to serve in the army on the strict condition that they do not engage in sexual activity while in service. Under current rules, any soldiers known to be gay - whether they are sexually active or not - must automatically be dismissed.

Senior officers say the switch in policy is the only sensible way forward after the apparent failure of "don't ask, don't tell" policies in other countries that have attempted to turn a blind eye to homosexuality among their troops.

One senior military lawyer said the army's position towards homosexuals was sympathetic but that regulations left officers with little room for manoeuvre once a soldier's sexuality became known. "We don't believe in witchhunting. We don't seek out gays and we certainly don't persecute them," he said.

"But the policy is very clear. Anybody identified as a homosexual is required to leave immediately, whether or not there has been improper behaviour."

The source said the new wording would allow the army to operate more sensitively and retain those gay members who were prepared to abide by rules on sexual activity. "There always will be gays in the forces - provided they don't behave in that manner, it really doesn't matter to us."

The Army Board, however, will not immediately consider whether the ban on homosexual relations should apply only when soldiers are on duty or should be extended to include their private lives off-base.

Another source said that the latest proposal was the only acceptable way forward between the hardline position taken by some senior military figures and modern-day realities. "A number of gays are serving in the army at the moment but knowing someone's sexuality constitutes the problem. Under the new policy, it is their behaviour that counts, not their private sexual inclinations," said the source.

The defence ministry has become increasingly concerned at the prospect of huge compensation payouts to former servicemen who were ejected from the forces for being homosexual.

However, ministers are also wary of the "don't ask, don't tell" compromise policy operated in America after President Bill Clinton vowed to lift the ban on gays in the military but ran into fierce opposition from service chiefs.

Officers were not permitted to ask service members about whether they were gay or investigate their private sexual lives. However, Service Members Legal Defence Network, an American watchdog looking at how the policy is enforced, says there has been a significant increase in expulsions from the army as the compromise policy is more vigorously enforced. It has also reported a rise in complaints against commanders for violating the policy by asking intrusive questions.

The British government has previously supported senior officers who say ending the ban on gays in the military will seriously undermine operational capabilities, and has pledged to fight the pending court cases.

However, John Wadham, legal director of Liberty, the human rights group which is taking two gays-in-the-military cases to the European court, said that while any advance on homosexual rights in the forces was to be welcomed, the new proposals were half-baked. "This is a feeble attempt to move to equality," he said. "What lesbian and gay people want is to be treated fairly and equally. These proposals do not do that."

Wall Street Journal
April 6, 1998
Pg. 1

Iran's cabinet criticized the arrest Saturday of Tehran's mayor, who played a big role in President Khatami's 1997 presidential victory. The mayor is being held on corruption charges, but the arrest may be part of a struggle between Khatami, considered a moderate, and hard-line clerics.

Our Solution to the Saddam Stalemate

Washington Post April 6, 1998 Pg. 25

By David M. Ransom

The Clinton administration must devise a way to rebuild Arab support for political or military pressure on Saddam Hussein and escape from its false choice between containing the Iraqi dictator on one hand and trying on the other hand to overthrow him by covert or overt force.

There is a way to do this: an American call to reintegrate Iraq into the Arab, gulf and oil world -- once Saddam Hussein has been overthrown by the men around him. In other words, give an Arab dimension to regional stability and peace and fit our military-containment options into that broader policy -- not the other way around.

We need to move quickly. A Saddam Hussein who thinks he has won this round soon will move to block the new Annan formula for U.N. inspections. Why should we give the loathsome Saddam Hussein the tools he needs to rally support? He can now pose credibly as the champion of a Sunni Iraq against a U.S. government that wants to use Kurdish and Shia Arab separatism to weaken the regime in Baghdad. All the Arab regional states are Sunni, and they distrust the Kurds and Shia. Even Shia Iran is unlikely to support an effort that increases Kurdish strength.

Under these circumstances, the United States is fast on its way to losing Arab support. The Levantine and North African Arab countries are not with us, and Arab support in the gulf is slipping. Kuwait's hard line is not shared by Qatar, for instance, which sent its foreign minister to Baghdad in this last crisis. Oman and the United Arab Emirates also agreed to little or nothing to base our strike forces. Nor is the Kuwaiti hard line shared by the Saudis, who gave no support to strikes on Iraq from Saudi soil and almost reversed an initial readiness to let support planes operate from their kingdom. In these circumstances, we burdened our good friends in Bahrain with too many requests.

There is a way to rebuild coalition support, both inside and outside the Arab world. Some of this Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has said, but occasionally and faintly. We must say clearly and forcefully that we will deal sympathetically with Iraq, immediately upon Saddam Hussein's departure. We would send U.S. envoys, offer softer U.S. terms in the U.N. Security Council and hold out respectful treatment for the concerns of a successor to provide food, medicine and the hope of a better future for the people of Iraq.

We should say that, yes, we will hold a new Iraqi govenment to a regime of U.N. investigation for weapons of mass destruction but that we would not unnecessarily delay all other steps to the completion of every other part of the U.N. resolutions. Instead, we would lend our support to efforts to make sure that reparations are not crippling, we would commit ourselves to lift the sanctions promptly and we would work to restore Iraq to a regional role as a united state.

If we must hold our noses while we do all this with a thuggish new regime in Iraq, so be it. To be pro-Iraq, rather than just anti-Saddam Hussein, would give Arab states something to agree with. Reengagement with Iraq is potentially a powerful American policy position, unlike our present one, which seems to be punitive, endless and in the eyes of the Arabs, driven more by Israeli concerns than by our own regional interests.

But there is more to this new policy than rallying Arab support outside Iraq. Inside Iraq too, there too, strong reasons to prefer a policy that calls for reintegrating Iraq into international and regional society. Indeed, threatening covert action and military attacks, as we are doing, traps the worried men around Saddam Hussein into supporting him more determinedly. Saddam Hussein can say to them, quite convincingly, that after he is gone, they are lost. Iraq will divide, it will never get the sanctions lifted, and the minority Sunnis will be hounded from power.

A policy that calls for a new Iraqi government -- implicitly a Sunni one -- and restores Iraq to strength has great potential for giving those around Saddam Hussein a way out of their box. The military in Iraq does not need our rifles and money. But it does need a vision of a better future. It does not have one now.

The writer was ambassador to Bahrain from 1994 to 1997

Washington Times April 6, 1998 Pg. 15

The defense of Europe

By George Robertson

Too often Europe has been divided up, fought over and redivided —good for the map makers, bad for the millions of people engulfed by the consequences. Again and again, attempts to lay the foundations of a peaceful Europe have built in the divisions that would destroy peace.

Twice this century the United States had to become involved in European wars to defend democracy and freedom. Since then the U.S. has committed itself politically and militarily to the security of Europe to prevent such wars again. The collapse of communism in Central and Eastern Europe showed the wisdom and success of this policy.

In post-Cold War Europe, we have the opportunity to build a safer continent based on inclusive security and the stability of cooperation not confrontation. We must prevent crises arising by building up effective security organizations. If, despite our efforts, crises do come about we must act decisively to restore peace and stability.

NATO is the bedrock on which Europe's security rests. It is as relevant now as it was 10 years ago. The key strengths of NATO remain: collective defense, the transatlantic link and the military capability provided by joint planning and the integrated military structure. These strengths will remain at NATO's heart as it embraces new European members. A few years ago the people of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic were struggling for a say in their own governance. Now they have made the free choice to join NATO, and we are glad to invite them to do so. NATO's door remains open to European countries willing and able to meet the responsibilities of membership. There must be no question of gates being locked to form a new security fence rediviging Europe.

But we must also ensure that the European countries not in NATO do not feel isolated or excluded. Partnership for Peace allows countries to work closely with NATO in the headquarters and in the field. There can be few better examples of the incredible changes of the last 10 years than NATO troops working with former Warsaw Pact forces to build stability together in Bosnia. Russia and Ukraine have special relationships with NATO and now have full-time staff at NATO headquarters.

These are significant achievements, but we can and must do more. It is no use dismantling Europe's physical barriers if we allow the barriers in people's minds to remain. I, therefore, announced on March 31 that as part of our Strategic Defense Review I intend to elevate defense diplomacy and conflict prevention to one of the seven formal missions that underpin British defense planning — to ensure that Churchill's call for "jaw, jaw," not "war, war" is put into practice.

I want to develop a new role for Britain's service personnel as world-wide "ambassadors" for peace and security, building bridges between former adversaries. In particular, I intend to put in place a Defense Diplomacy Action Plan to build and maintain trust and assist in the development of democratically accountable armed forces. An enhanced network of defense attaches will help reach out to the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe and beyond. Old barriers will be broken down through military to military contacts, exchange programs, and training courses including

increased English language tuition.

For far too long, defense diplomacy has been regarded as an optional extra. It is now time to give it the priority it deserves. Defense diplomacy and conflict prevention cost little compared to the other activities of our forces, but the political rewards are huge. I have seen the evidence in Bosnia and in exercises such as those bringing together British, Polish and Ukrainian airborne forces. By investing in security now, we can reap a real and lasting peace dividend in years to come.

Defense is, of course, just one component of overall security. NATO is part of a wider framework that includes the U.N., the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the European Union and the Western European Union. A key message is that you are not outside Europe just because you are outside NATO.

The European Union lies at the heart of political and economic stability in Europe. Its tradition of evolution and growth continued last week with the beginning of the Accession Process with 11 countries. Like NATO, the EU is taking practical action to make sure that those countries who wish to join, but have more to do, are not excluded or isolated. The Europe Agreements and the massive Phare aid program are cases in point.

Europe can and should become more active in taking responsibility for its own security and for exporting it to areas where our shared interests lie. The development of the European Security and Defense Identity within NATO has been a profound step forward. In parallel, the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy has the potential to give Europe a louder political voice. And during its 50th anniversary the Western European Union plays a central role as the bridge between the political and economic power of the EU and the military effectiveness of NATO.

These institutions provide a framework for security, but ultimately Europeans must have both the will to act and the capability to make a difference. European responsibility cannot come without European capability. The United Kingdom has shown that it has both the will and the capability to talk when possible and act when necessary — in Bosnia and over Iraq.

I am optimistic that we can build the inclusive security necessary to bring a safer Europe united by peace. I am also realistic enough to appreciate that to achieve that goal we have yet to surmount considerable obstacles. To do so we must make sure that inclusive security works in practice and does not just rest in a set of carefully worded treaties. History has shown that there can be no national security without international security. If any country in Europe feels insecure then none of us is truly safe.

George Robertson is British Secretary of State for Defense.

Washington Post April 6, 1998 Pg. 25

This Court Should Not Be Called to Session

By Adrian Karatnycky

Unbeknown to most Americans, a new International Criminal Court with far-reaching powers is hurtling toward adoption. According to its proponents, the court will enable the international community to punish war criminals, perpetrators of genocide, fomenters of ethnic hatred and those guilty of "crimes against humanity."

In the weeks ahead, international experts and diplomats will thrash out the text of a treaty in advance of a June gathering in Rome to establish the new court. Regrettably, much in the working draft is worrying and flawed. On one side are backers of a court with a broad mandate, which include Amnesty International, the American Bar Association, the International Association of Jurists and many small democracies that rarely intervene in foreign conflicts. On the other side are supporters of a court with a narrowly defined mission, which include the United States and France, two countries deeply engaged in the world.

The draft charter allows for selection of judges on the basis of a simple majority vote by signatory states under secret ballot. With the majority of the U.N. consisting of dictatorships and countries with a weak rule of law, nondemocratic states could decide the court's composition. The U.S. government therefore proposes electing judges by a "super-majority" that would require the backing of established democracies. The United States also seeks to make the court subject to supervision by the U.N. Security Council, where its actions would be subject to U.S. veto.

A second problem with the court is its broad mandate. According to draft language, the court could intercede in an array of "crimes against humanity." These include not only murder, extermination, rape and enslavement but "persecution against any identifiable group or collectivity on political, racial, national, ethnic, cultural or religious grounds." Amendments suggest adding "gender" and "other similar grounds" to the mandate. Such language appeals to many human rights groups, but it will result in a court that could intrude into many domestic-policy issues.

The proposed International Criminal Court also could have jurisdiction over loosely defined "war crimes," including attacks against nonmilitary targets. U.S. officials worry that American peacekeepers could be brought up on charges if their operations result in civilian casualties. The U.S. military could be investigated at the behest of such rogue states as Libya or Iraq, against whom the United States has been involved in hostilities that have resulted in the loss of civilian life.

Another key issue is enforcement. Unquestionably, the U.S. military would be asked to bring to the docket those indicted by the court. With a mandate that could involve everything from ethnic discrimination to gender issues, the court could develop into an unmanageable instrument generating pressure on the United States to divert military resources away from its strategic objectives.

Another worry is cost. A court with a wide-ranging mandate would produce a vast bureaucracy. The prosecution of a handful of individuals for genocide and war crimes in Rwanda already has cost $56 million and now employs a staff of more than 450.

The current draft treaty has no chance of ratification by the U.S. Senate. Still, the administration feels that, with time, Congress could come around and support a strong and limited treaty signed by the president. Ideally, the court should focus on bringing to justice those guilty of international terrorist acts, genocide and strictly defined "war crimes." A court prosecuting criminals such as Carlos the Jackal and Pol Pot would contribute to a safer world; a court that could prosecute U.S. peacekeepers in Bosnia would not.

Regrettably, U.S. government efforts to improve the court are being undermined by some American nongovernmental groups. One U.S. human rights leader has written that "the international community is growing more comfortable with leaving the United States out on questions of international law" and suggested that the treaty should proceed with or without U.S. support. The idea that an international criminal court could function without the active engagement of the United States is not credible.

While the administration had been beating the drum for the treaty over the last year, it now is realizing that in its current form the court is flawed. Frank talk is needed. Anything less will set back the legitimate effort to establish an effective criminal body capable of punishing mankind's most heinous criminals.

The writer is president of Freedom House.

Wall Street Journal Apr. 6, 1998 Pg. 1

A Palestinian man drew a 240-year prison sentence Friday for driving the truck bomb that killed six people in New York's World Trade Center in 1993. Eyad Ismoil was arrested in Jordan in 1995 and convicted last year with plot mastermind Ramzi Yousef.

INSIDE THE **BELTWAY**

by John McCaslin

Washington Times
Apr. 6, 1998
Pg. 6

Dwyer, O'Toole & Cooke

In his capacity as communications director for the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, Will Dwyer II must possess a security clearance from the Pentagon.

Not a problem, right? Mr. Dwyer has held "top secret" clearances before, including from 1963 to 1968 while serving under a New York congressman, and again in 1974 as public affairs director of the U.S. General Services Administration.

When he wasn't in public service, Mr. Dwyer practiced law. He had a private practice in Beverly Hills, Calif., specializing in constitutional law. He was also active in politics, serving as a vice chairman of Reagan for President.

All that said, Mr. Dwyer on March 23 was handed a letter from the Pentagon, informing him it had received information that he maintained dual U.S. and Irish citizenship and held an Irish passport.

During a previous interview with a Defense Security Service investigator, the Pentagon acknowledges, Mr. Dwyer stated he obtained his Irish citizenship in accordance with the Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act of 1956, which provides that certain persons born outside of Ireland acquire Irish citizenship by descent of, say, an Irish-born grandparent.

But Steve O'Toole, the Pentagon's security-operations chief, now informs Mr. Dwyer that although dual citizenship in and of itself "does not indicate any impairment of loyalty and trustworthiness," a Defense Department regulation cites dual citizenship as a "disqualifying factor" mandating denial or revocation of a security clearance.

"While your interest in your Irish heritage is understandable," Mr. O'Toole writes, "your passport will have to be officially relinquished to the government of Ireland. This office requires documentary proof of relinquishment. Upon receipt of proof, this office will finalize the processing of your security clearance."

Mr. Dwyer couldn't believe his Irish eyes. Not blessed with an Irish temper, he sat down and fired off a four-page letter dated April 2 to David O. Cooke, director of the Pentagon's Washington Headquarters Services.

Mr. Dwyer protested the Pentagon's demand that he relinquish his Irish passport, arguing it would "insult" both Ireland — a U.S. ally — and 44 million U.S. citizens of Irish descent.

"For me, it is a matter of heritage, honoring my family forebears and paying a sentimental debt to those Irish who had to leave their home in the past for economic or political reasons," Mr. Dwyer stated.

He went on, "Lest we forget: Former National Security Adviser Bud McFarlane went to Tehran secretly in 1986 with four other Americans on a plane carrying both military equipment for Iran and a Bible signed by President Reagan. They traveled on Irish passports."

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INSIDE THE **RING**

by Ernest Blazar

Washington Times
Apr. 6, 1998
Pg. 8

Army of privates

The Army's got big problems, Congress' investigatory arm found in a recent study.

The General Accounting Office looked at five of the Army's 10 divisions that would deploy in a second wave to an overseas war.

These divisions — the 1st Armored, the 1st Infantry, the 4th Infantry, the 10th Infantry and the 25th Infantry — are kept at a slightly lower level of readiness than the Army's first five divisions, which form the Army's quick-deployment force.

This second batch of five Army divisions is key to fighting and winning the second of two nearly simultaneous wars. Even considering their planned lower level of readiness, the five divisions' actual shortages are alarming. The GAO report was delivered to Congress during a March 20 hearing of the House National Security Committee.

Many of GAO's findings were backed by testimony from Army officers and soldiers.

The study and testimony suggests that, if not reversed, half of the active duty Army may go hollow.

Among the examples:

• 10th "Mountain" Infantry Division — Only 138 of 168 infantry squads in this division were fully or minimally filled, investigators found. Of those, 36 of the filled squads were not qualified to execute their wartime tasks, investigators found. An infantry squad is supposed to have nine or 10 soldiers, but many have only four or five.

Col. William B. Caldwell, who commands the 1st Brigade of the 10th Infantry Division, confirmed for Congress that one-third of his infantry squads and all his antitank units are unmanned. There are three brigades like Col. Caldwell's in a division.

• 25th Infantry Division — In the 2nd and 3rd brigades of this division, 52 of 162 infantry squads were "minimally filled or had no personnel assigned," the GAO report found.

• 1st Infantry Division — The division's 1st brigade had only 56 percent of the infantrymen it needs to fill its Bradley armored vehicles. Overall, the brigade's top enlisted soldier, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael L. Gravens, calls his unit's overall strength "satisfactory." But he told Congress recently that not having enough soldiers with the right training "clearly takes a toll on our readiness."

Within the 1st Infantry Division's 2nd brigade, located in Germany, 21 of its 48 infantry squads had no personnel assigned. From the remaining 27 squads, the brigade sent five squads' worth of soldiers outside their jobs to do maintenance, supply or office work. That means instead of having 48 squads with nine soldiers, or 432 troops, the brigade instead has only 22 squads with seven soldiers each, totaling 154 infantrymen. Moreover, the brigade suffers from a shortage of 226 noncommissioned officers, 17 percent below what the unit requires.

NCOs are the senior enlisted soldiers that make up the Army's backbone. Most of the Army's enlisted shortage is in the rank of sergeant, the first-line supervisor for junior troops.

• 1st Armored Division — At the division's 3rd brigade, only 16 of the unit's 116 MI1A1 tanks had full, four-man crews qualified to meet their wartime tasks. In one of that brigade's two armor battalions, 14 of 58 tanks had no crew members assigned because all were deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina. In the division's German-based engineer brigade, 11 of its 24 bridge-building teams had no personnel assigned.

• 4th Infantry Division — No fewer than 13 of 54 squads in this division's engineer brigade had either no personnel assigned or fewer personnel assigned than re-

quired.

Col. Edwin W. Chamberlain III, a fourth-generation professional soldier who commands this division's 3rd brigade at Fort Carlson in Colorado, told Congress there are problems.

"We are already seeing a trend in the brigade . . . recently where we have a shortage of NCOs and an abundance of privates," he testified March 20, referring to the junior-most enlisted soldiers.

That is a dangerous sign.

"The adverse readiness impact, should this trend continue, will be real on the battlefield and will be evidenced by higher casualties due to a lack of junior leader experience. We saw this happen at the beginning of the Korean War, and near the end of the Vietnam War," he said, relying on the memories of his father and grandfather who served the Army before him.

"We are in danger of becoming an 'Army of Privates' in the line units."

When GAO investigators compared what they found in these five Army divisions against official Army readiness reports, they found that in many cases, Army officers overstated their units' readiness.

The Army is trying to fix these problems.

Acting Army Secretary Robert M. Walker acknowledged to Congress on March 26 that "we face readiness challenges." But as for infantry shortages, he said, "We have been able to begin turning that around. . . . We are refilling those squads today."

But he may be swimming against the tide.

The Pentagon's plan today is not to spend more money on units like these five Army divisions. It's to squeeze more money — more than $10 billion — from them over the next four years to buy new, high-technology planes, radar, computers and helicopters.

That means things may get worse, not better.

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Portland (ME) Press Herald April 6, 1998

NUMBERS OUT OF WHACK

Cohen is right to push to close unneeded bases

Underused, expensive sites drain money from budgets.

There's simply no question that the U.S. military suffers an imbalance of resources. It has more military bases than are justified by the size of the current force. As Secretary of Defense Bill Cohen pointed out in a report to Congress last week, the Pentagon has cut back on planes, ships and soldiers in far greater proportion than it has closed installations.

Closing more bases will save billions that could be used for 450 new fighters for the Air Force, two carriers and 12 other ships for the Navy, hundreds of helicopters and artillery pieces for the Army, and 1,000 amphibious strike vehicles and 250 fighters for the Marines.

Those badly needed weapons can't be purchased, however, as long as bases are 23 percent larger than the forces that occupy them.

Cohen asked Congress for two more rounds of base closures, in 2001 and 2005, like the ones that previously closed down 97 of 495 bases. He added that he could save money by not maintaining some sites, but said closing would be preferable. Cohen noted many former bases became prosperous civilian enterprises. He also said the closings have saved more money than previously estimated, and more shutdowns could save billions more.

Congress' top priority should be to defend America better. Cohen should keep pushing the base-closing issue. Our men and women in uniform deserve it.

London Times April 6, 1998

France and Britain are first to ratify test ban treaty

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

BRITAIN and France are to take an historic step "towards global nuclear disarmament" today by becoming the first nuclear powers to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, The Times has learnt.

The two countries are to make a joint announcement to underline their "common agenda" and to send a strong signal to the other nuclear powers and the so-called threshold nuclear states.

In a ceremony at the United Nations in New York later today, Sir John Weston, Britain's Permanent Representative at the UN, and his French counterpart, will deposit the "instruments of ratification" and make a joint statement. The other nuclear powers, the United States, Russia and China, are still in the process of ratifying the treaty, which has been signed by 149 countries.

Tony Lloyd, the Foreign Office Minister, said that the treaty provided a "strong moral framework" which, it was hoped, would discourage putative nuclear states from pursuing their ambitions to build up arsenals.

He said Britain would try to dissuade the new Indian Government from going ahead with its threat to pursue a nuclear weapons programme. London would be urging Delhi to "recognise their responsibilities in their own region", Mr Lloyd said in an interview with The Times. Pakistan has made it clear that it will sign the treaty if India does.

India and Pakistan have signed neither the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty nor the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The other countries with nuclear ambitions, North Korea, Iran and Iraq, have signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty which automatically bans non-nuclear states from testing.

Britain is now committed to maintaining a nuclear deterrent in the form of the four Trident ballistic missile submarines without ever again conducting tests at the American underground facility in Nevada.

The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty does not come into force until 44 "named" countries have ratified it. These are the 44 that have a civilian nuclear power industry. However, Mr Lloyd said that it would be "almost unthinkable" for Britain or any of the other nuclear powers to resume testing in the period before the treaty was implemented. The treaty was open for signature in September 1996. If the 44 have not ratified it within three years from that date, a review conference will decide what action to take.

The announcement by Britain and France will bring to 13 the number of countries to have ratified the treaty. Mr Lloyd said that ratification was "a significant step on the road to global nuclear disarmament".

An international monitoring system is already in place, capable of detecting any nuclear explosion involving a yield of one kiloton or more.

There is also a rigorous inspection regime that allows spot checks in any country suspected of conducting nuclear tests. Mr Lloyd said it was "inconceivable" that any country would be able to carry out a nuclear test without being detected. "There can be no easy cheating," he said.

The minister said that the next challenge was to improve enforcement of the treaty covering the ban on biological weapons, and to agree on nuclear fissile material limits.

European Stars & Stripes April 5, 1998 Pg. 1

U.S. settles in Air Force nursery case

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — The federal government has agreed to pay $11.3 million to settle a lawsuit brought by the families of nine newborns who allegedly were injected with a toxic painkiller at an Air Force nursery. Many of the babies stopped breathing and turned blue. Some suffered permanent damage, including impaired speech and motor skills, gastrointestinal illness and forms of paralysis.

In 1996, their parents had won a $27 million verdict against Maxwell Air Force Base hospital's nursery. The government appealed, then agreed to settle Wednesday. Under terms of the deal, the money paid to six of the families will be invested and distributed over the children's lives, meaning the deal could wind up being worth more than the $27 million verdict, depending on how long the children live.

David Byrne III, an attorney for the families, said the deal "meets the needs of the children in terms of their future medical care, educational expenses, and to compensate them for the pain and suffering they experience."

The settlement must be approved by a federal court. A hearing was scheduled for April 15. In 1996, a federal judge ruled the Air Force acted negligently when it allowed former airman Michael Beckelic — described in court records as "mentally unstable" — to work in the hospital nursery at Maxwell in the mid-1980s. The judge also ruled that the children's medical problems were a direct result of being injected with a toxic dose of lidocaine.

Beckelic denied doing anything improper and was never charged criminally. A prosecutor has said there was not enough evidence to bring a case. Beckelic had an unpublished number in Redding, Calif., and could not be reached for comment Friday.

Last fall, he said the government had not contacted him about the case since 1989, when he was dishonorably discharged from the Air Force after being found guilty of abusing his wife and child. He was sentenced to one year's hard labor. Beckelic got a job in 1996 at Mercy Medical Center in Redding, Calif., where he apparently did not tell officials of the allegations against him in the Maxwell case. He was fired last October after the hospital learned about the charges.

At Maxwell, 32 babies who had been born healthy suffered sudden respiratory problems over three years. An Air Force investigation in 1988 found that Beckelic had been on duty every time. The parents of many of the children then sued the government.

Gail Johnson, a Justice Department lawyer, declined comment.

San Diego Union-Tribune April 4, 1998 Pg. 1

Military's drug-test program shaken

Marine cleared; says he used diet product

By James W. Crawley
STAFF WRITER

CAMP PENDLETON -- The military drug testing system may be jeopardized by a court-martial jury's acquittal yesterday of a Marine who tested positive on a random drug test because he used a legal dietary supplement containing hemp seed oil.

After 35 minutes of deliberations, a jury of three officers and five sergeants acquitted Lance Cpl. Kevin Boyd of a single count of using marijuana.

Boyd, a heavily muscled avid bodybuilder, contended that he tested positively in August because he was using a dietary supplement containing hemp seed oil, which is a legal byproduct of marijuana plants.

Hemp seed oil is high in essential fatty acids and has been advocated by some nutrition experts. A tablespoonful or two a day is supposed to help build muscles and burn calories more efficiently.

In most cases, a positive result from a drug test has been enough evidence for military juries to convict. The military routinely requires soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen to submit to random urine tests. The tests, which are in response to rampant drug use in the armed forces during the 1970s and early 1980s, have been successful in making the military virtually drug-free.

But, in the Boyd case and another in December involving an Air Force sergeant, defense attorneys convinced court-martial panels that their clients had not smoked illegal marijuana but, instead, had drunk a readily available health-food supplement.

In the Air Force case, Chief Master Sgt. Spencer Gaines, also a bodybuilder, was acquitted under nearly the same circumstances as those in the Marine case here.

While those two acquittals set no precedent in other courts-martial, the verdicts point to a viable defense strategy for many service members accused of drug use.

Boyd's attorney and a Navy pharmacologist, who testified for the defense, said yesterday's acquittal could spell serious trouble for the military's random drug-testing program.

"It's going to be tough on the government (prosecutors) because anyone who 'pops' on a drug test will argue this (defense)," Capt. Todd Wallace said.

Lt. Thomas Bosy, a pharmacologist and research coordinator at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, D.C., said Boyd's case highlighted a serious threat to the government testing program.

"This can be a serious problem for the government and not just the military," Bosy said.

In tests, Bosy found amounts of THC, the banned component of marijuana, in seven brands of hemp seed oil. The amounts were high enough, Bosy testified, to show up as a positive result on standard drug tests.

Several studies in the United States and Europe agree that commercially available hemp seed oil has identifiable levels of THC, tetrahydrocannabinal. However, most distributors have said their products have no THC. None of the oil products will give users a high.

Marine Corps officials in Washington were unavailable last night for comment about the verdict.

A spokesman for a national pro-marijuana organization called the court-martial verdict "interesting."

There is little doubt that ingestion of hemp seed oil will produce an adverse test result, said Paul Armentano, a spokesman for the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. As more people use hemp seed oil, Armentano predicted, many more cases of "false positive" drug test results will occur.

During closing arguments of the two-day special court-martial, the prosecutor, Capt. Paul Buta, said that, although there was no eyewitness to say Boyd smoked marijuana, the urinalysis was a "silent witness."

Regarding defense claims, Buta told the jury, "Hemp oil is fanciful, ingenious, imaginative. It's a red herring."

Although the lance corporal did not testify, jurors heard from a woman who lived in Boyd's house and said she saw him drink the oil supplement.

After the verdict, Boyd said he was "finally relieved."

"I've been in the twilight zone for seven months," he said.

Boyd plans to leave the Marine Corps in three months when his enlistment ends. He expects to attend junior college and play football.

He does not use hemp seed oil anymore and said he does not believe that the Marine Corps should allow its use.

"I think they'll have to ban it," Boyd said. "Otherwise, a bunch of dope heads are going to use it as a defense."

Small boat turns Mids into sailors

Baltimore Sun
April 4, 1998

Academy: Training on yard patrol craft is an important part of developing the skills needed by naval officers.

By Neal Thompson
Sun Staff

Like an elephant in a daisy patch, the lumpy-gray ship plods on a lumbering course through all the pretty sailboats flitting about the Chesapeake.

At the helm of this 108-foot Navy ship, three stories above the water, is a teen-ager whose only prior boating experience was fishing and snorkeling off an aluminum johnboat back home among the mangroves on Florida's west coast.

But at the Naval Academy, which considers the Chesapeake Bay a campus annex, midshipmen such as Ron Chino, 18, are expected to master the basic tenets of wind and water long before they set foot on a battleship's steel deck.

That means boats become classrooms and nature the professor.

"Pretty amazing being from Florida, and I don't really get out on the water until I come here," said Chino, an academy freshman, spinning a steering wheel with a 3-foot diameter and keeping an eye out for sailboats as the sun sets on Annapolis.

Many midshipmen's first taste of the real Navy is aboard these "yard patrol crafts," or YPs in Navy-speak. Looking like miniature versions of the Navy's eighth-of-a-mile-long destroyers, a handful of YPs can be seen any day of any season of the year chugging off Annapolis' shores.

Complementing its impressive fleet of sailboats and yachts, 20 YPs are kept on hand to train midshipmen to be sailors, teammates and leaders. Aboard the YPs, Mids are taught how to yield to sailboats and other basics of seamanship; how to navigate by the stars, even though some gripe that that's what computers are for; and mastery of the glossary of Navy terminology (it's a helm not a steering wheel, a deck not a floor, a rack not a bed).

Not only floating classrooms, YPs are used for seamanship competitions and by members of the YP Power Squadron, an extracurricular group -- sort of like the chess club -- that takes trips to Baltimore, New York and Norfolk aboard the Yps. YPs also are used for the "youngster cruise," a three-week journey at sea between Mids' freshman and sophomore years.

The boats got a bit of a bad rap three years ago when the youngster cruise became mandatory instead of voluntary. And some Mids bristle about spending their college days on a ship, knowing they'll be spending plenty of time on ships after graduation. Others are shocked to learn that being a sailor isn't always as glamorous as they'd thought.

Quartermaster John Patrick Shea, the enlisted man who commands the YP when Mids aren't sailing it, said the experience is sometimes an eye-opener for neophyte sailors. "They've got the lab experience and the book stuff, but here's where we bring it all together," he said.

Some Mids can't get enough. Those aboard YP 684 this day are here by choice -- members of the YP Squadron. They play all the roles, serving as as helmsmen, navigators and officers of the deck, while a lone supervisor silently baby-sits, making sure no one makes a mistake.

"I try not to give too much advice, because the whole point is for them to train themselves," said Lt. Kirk Brothers.

Today, three YPs are chugging along at 12 knots, performing maneuvers called DivTacs -- Division Tactics -- akin to extremely slow-motion synchronized swimming, in which one boat arcs left, followed by the other two. Robert McFarlin, a sophomore from Denver, is talking by radio with the other two boats to coordinate their turns.

"It's good practice, and it's a lot of fun. It's just good to get out on the water," McFarlin said. "If you're going to be a naval officer, you need these skills."

YPs have the same gyro-compass repeaters, radios, radar and "coffin rack" bunk beds that their bigger naval brothers have, in an effort to replicate the mechanics and lifestyle of the fleet. There's a combat information center, the nerve center where war plans are made, though the radio today cackles not with word of enemy subs but with classic rock.

With heavy rubber cushioning around the gunwale, the Yps are also like bumper boats to allow young helmsmen such as Chino to nudge a few piers during the learning process.

"They're designed to make mistakes on," said Lt. Todd Mullis, a seamanship and navigation professor. "I mean, some of these kids have never seen the ocean before."

On a recent sunny afternoon, Chino and seven other midshipmen are backing YP 684 out from the academy's sea wall. Like the beeping of a truck in reverse, the YP gives off three horn blasts as a warning, and another midshipman gives the order "All back one-third." But then, there's confusion in the pilothouse, and three Mids bark "All stop! All stop!"

An academy sailboat is bobbing behind the ship, in a blind spot, and YP 684 slows to avoid a collision. A similar cutback in power will occur later in the trip to avoid a mishap with a school of academy sailboats.

Adm. Charles R. Larson, the academy superintendent, calls the YPs important tools in developing officers. He says the goal is not to train yachtsmen, but for skills learned aboard a 108-foot YP or a 14-foot dinghy that translate into self-confidence and leadership as naval officers.

Cmdr. Philip H. Greene Jr., the seamanship department chairman, says that whether midshipmen go off to the Marines or to submarines or to fly planes, they're still part of the Navy.

"So, first and foremost, they've got to be competent mariners," Greene said.

Lt. Tony Miller, a 1990 graduate based in Norfolk, Va., said his time aboard YPs at the academy proved "invaluable" after he graduated and found himself on an Aegis cruiser. That training helped him integrate and begin contributing aboard his ship.

"It definitely gives you a great deal of self-confidence when you can bring that YP alongside the pier and get your lines across without any help from anybody," he said.

For John Dye, a junior from California who is YP 684's commanding officer this day, such sunset trips on the Chesapeake remind him of why he's in Annapolis:

"I was having this really rough day and came out here and I thought: This is what I came here for. You can go to any college and get a chemistry degree or an engineering degree. But we come here to be naval officers. So for me, coming out here puts everything in perspective."

European Stars & Stripes Apr. 5, 1998 Pg. 7

AF says pilots fly safely

Associated Press

TOKYO — Responding to criticism from Japanese pilots, the U.S. Air Force said Friday that it maintains high standards of safety and is willing to meet with the pilots to discuss the issue.

"Flight safety is our number one concern," said a statement issued by the 5th Air Force at Yokota Air Base, outside Tokyo. The statement said U.S. forces' aircraft comply with international aviation standards established by the International Civil Aviation Organization and also voluntarily follow Japanese regulations.

The statement came after three Japanese pilot unions accused Japanese officials of ignoring their concerns and said Thursday they will take their complaints about close encounters with American warplanes directly to U.S. authorities.

Washington Times April 5, 1998 Pg. 11

Army wants treasures out of storage, into museum

By Anne Gearan
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT BELVOIR — Stacked in warehouses around the country are rare battle flags dating to the Revolutionary War, a Civil War boot plucked from the bottom of a Florida river, even a complete Iraqi tank.

Spoils of war, uniforms, flags and equipment are among more than 500,000 artifacts owned by the Army but rarely, if ever, displayed to the public.

There are also about 14,000 pieces of art in Army warehouses, including valuable original Civil War illustrations

"It is a treasure that belongs to the American people, and they ought to be able to see it," said Col. Raymond Bluhm Jr., a retired Army officer leading a fund-raising drive to build a national Army museum.

Planning for the museum began in 1983 and may finally bear fruit this year, said a congressman trying to persuade the Army to pick a site near Mount Vernon, home of the Army's first commander, George Washington.

Fort Belvoir, an Army base in southern Fairfax County, is one of two sites considered the best candidates for a 375,000-square-foot museum that traces Army history, Army officials said.

The other site is Carlisle, Pa., already home to the Army's War College. Officials there are offering about 90 acres for the museum.

"We do have a site we feel that is perfectly appropriate for this kind of facility," Fort Belvoir spokeswoman Rebecca Wriggle said. "Should the Army select Belvoir, we're prepared."

Fort Belvoir officials have formed a booster group with local business leaders and politicians, and enlisted help from Rep. James P. Moran, a Virginia Democrat.

Acting Army Secretary Mike Walker has not said when he will choose a site.

"The Army is still considering a number of sites and no decision has been made at this time," Army spokesman Col. John Smith said.

The project would require congressional approval, and cost an estimated $80 million in public and private money. The Army hopes to open the museum in 2005 or soon thereafter, and plans to run it with help from the Smithsonian Institution.

Although the Army operates several specialized museums at bases around the country, efforts to build a comprehensive museum have faltered. Two earlier efforts to build a museum in the Washington area, including a proposed site in Arlington near the Pentagon, failed to muster enough support or money, Mr. Moran said.

According to figures compiled in the most recent failed bid, the museum would employ 150 workers and 50 researchers. It would serve about 1 million people a year.

Mr. Moran is working to get about $3 million set aside this year for a study of traffic patterns, tourism estimates and architecture for a Fort Belvoir museum.

If built at Fort Belvoir, the museum would be erected on 48 acres near the front entrance to the base and not far from the area's premier tourist attraction, Mount Vernon.

Mount Vernon, George Washington's home on the Potomac River, draws more than a million visitors a year to an otherwise neglected corner of the Washington metropolitan area.

Richmond Times Dispatch April 5, 1998

Military, ODU work in tandem

Nuclear engineering program helps Navy

By Peter Bacqué
Times-Dispatch Staff Writer

NORFOLK -- Nuclear Machinist Mate 2nd Class Nicole Jaggers goes to work at 7:30 a.m. at the Norfolk Navy Base, puts in a full day and then heads down Hampton Boulevard to Old Dominion University. She'll usually be at the school till 9 or 10 p.m. -- or later.

The 26-year-old Oklahoman is a full-time student, working on a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering technology with a nuclear emphasis.

The university started the course specifically for students like Jaggers: Navy "nukes," the highly trained enlisted sailors who run the sea service's nuclear power reactors.

ODU is a good fit for her, she said.

"They are very sympathetic and understanding about the needs and obligations of military students," Jaggers said, obligations like six-month deployments in warships sailing around the world.

"Teachers will give make-up work if you have duty days," the A-student said. "They'll allow you to come in at different times.

Before she joined the Navy to become one of its first group of 11 females trained as nuclear power technicians, Jaggers had attended two Oklahoma universities. Compared with ODU, she said, "A normal school wouldn't be that understanding."

Jaggers is just one of 4,900 eagerly sought members of the military, their wives, husbands and children, who together make up 27 percent of Old Dominion's 18,500 students.

It was not always thus.

In 1973, Sandra Barnes came to Norfolk as an official working in the Navy's program to help sailors continue their civilian education.

She met with ODU leaders about working with the Navy on its voluntary education program.

"I remember writing in my notes that it would be a very long time before this institution would be involved in voluntary education," said the now retired Northeast area manager for Navy Campus, the service's civilian education program for its members.

ODU's attitude toward the military has changed, she said. "Now in the state of Virginia, they are premier."

James Koch became ODU's president in 1990.

"At that time, it would be fair to say, the military perhaps was viewed as somewhat of a nuisance," Koch said. "I viewed them as a huge potential market, a set of potential customers we could serve if we simply changed the way we did business," Now the university includes in its mission statement a responsibility for serving the many members of the military forces based in Hampton Roads, and their families.

"We like military people," said Koch. "Our experience is they're better students academically. They tend to graduate in higher proportions. And they tend to be good citizens on the campus."

In 1993 Koch hired Richard Whalen as the university's first director of military activities, reporting directly to Koch.

Whalen is a retired Navy captain, a Naval Academy graduate who had commanded first-line warships, worked in top service staff jobs and commanded ODU's Naval ROTC unit.

The burly 56-year-old man fissions with as much energy as one of Petty Officer Jagger's nuclear reactors.

"I feel like the military Johnny Appleseed for the university,"Norfolk-native Whalen said, "or maybe the Eveready

'bunny battery,' running around the country planting seeds, and hoping some of them grow into healthy trees."

Koch made Whalen ODU's main man with the military on academic, research, financial, athletic and social matters, from Hampton Roads to the Pentagon and overseas.

"I wanted him to improve our relationships with the military [and] to find out what it is they wanted us to do, as opposed to our simply saying, 'This is what we do. Come and get it.'

"And finally, I wanted to increase the number of people from the military who're taking advantage of our services," Koch said.

Getting the nuclear technology engineering degree up and running "took a lot of backdoor hijinks," Whalen said.

The idea behind the degree was to give the Navy's nuclear specialists credit for their two years at the Nuclear Power School in Orlando, Fla.

Part of the trick to getting them that credit was having the Navy declassify just what it taught in its Nuclear Power School curriculum.

Now, Navy nukes receive "a whopping head start of 42 credit hours" toward the 124 credits needed for the bachelor's degree, Whalen said.

The 200 Navy nukes in the program constitute more than a quarter of the mechanical engineering class, Whelan said.

"They are also some of the brightest and shiniest individuals we have on campus," he said with more than a little pride. "They're all A and B students, high-track, top-notch."

In all, ODU and the military were partners last year in 14 different projects, from wargaming at the Armed Forces Staff College to working with the Navy Exchange system.

ODU isn't the only Virginia college interested in working the military.

Several other colleges in the Hampton Roads area have also been active in educating members of the military community, and Virginia Commonwealth University recently started thinking about mining the military for students and cooperative projects.

Nationally about 25 institutions, the best known of which is the University of Maryland, specialize in working with the military, said Dr. Frances Kelly, the Navy's director of voluntary education programs in Washington.

One of the attractions of military students -- 40,000 this year in the Navy alone -- is that they come with cash for college.

Next year, Kelly said, every service member will be able to receive from the Defense Department up to $3,500 in tuition assistance for their civilian education while they are on active duty.

"We know that giving them access for education has a big payoff for the Navy," Kelly said.

However, only 18 percent to 20 percent of sailors take advantage of the money, she said, which leaves a large, untapped market for aggressive, well-situated universities like ODU.

Whalen is also the academic equivalent of an acetylene torch, cutting white-hot through bureaucratic red tape.

"If there's a slowdown on anything we're working with him on," Barnes said, "he can go to the president and say, 'Here's the problem.' "

Whalen also "knows how to operate within the military community to get access to people who can make things happen," she said.

"His sole constituency is the military, and he knows the product and he knows the customers," Barnes said.

European Stars & Stripes April 6, 1998 Pg. 4

B-2 bombers return home to California

By Pacific Stars and Stripes

FINEGAYAN, Guam — A pair of B-2A Spirit bombers Thursday left Guam for home and will be scanned with radar as they near California's Edwards Air Force Base to test whether their first extended forward deployment degraded the planes' stealthiness.

The B-2s, based at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., were training out of Andersen Air Force Base on Guam for the past 11 days.

Whiteman's 509th Bomb Wing spokesman, Capt. Bruce Sprecher, said that despite news reports saying the planes required intensive maintenance and had to be stored in hangars, no problems linked to Guam's high heat and humidity were found.

"Looks like we shot a hole in that one," Sprecher said. "We had them baked in the sun and drenched in the rain. We had one plane or the other parked outside for maintenance. It seemed to have no effect on the planes at all."

Sprecher said a goal of the deployment was to learn more about the 509th's ability to send planes to a forward location with its support operations. "This was the first time we had to pack everything up that we needed and select the right people for an extended deployment," he said.

Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report April 4, 1998 Pg. 898

Pentagon Enlists New Statistics In Push To Close More Bases

Secretary Cohen says shutdowns have saved more money than anticipated, but lawmakers say administration is unlikely to marshal enough support

By Chuck McCutcheon, CQ Staff Writer

Pentagon officials hope that new figures released April 2 on the savings from closing military bases will persuade Congress to authorize another estate sale in three years.

While some lawmakers agree, fearing that the defense budget is being dangerously squeezed, others flatly say there is no way it will happen this year, with elections approaching and anger still lingering over President Clinton's actions during the 1995 base-closing round.

Clinton chose to turn over Air Force maintenance depots in Texas and California to private companies rather than close them -- a move widely seen as an end-run of the process in order to save jobs in states key to his re-election.

Defense Secretary William S. Cohen on April 2 released a report to Congress showing that the base realignment and closure process appears to have saved more money than previously estimated.

The report found that the base closure process will break even this year -- cumulative savings will offset cumulative costs -- and that total net savings should climb to $14 billion in 2001, with annual savings of $5.6 billion in the following years.

Included in the report is a Defense Department inspector general's audit of the 1993 and 1995 rounds which found that savings in 1993 were 29 percent greater than the department had estimated over the six-year implementation period. (1993 Almanac, p. 465)

Given the financial constraints of last year's balanced-budget agreement, Cohen said his department needs to find ways to save money if it is to afford new weapons systems. (1997 Weekly Report, p. 1304)

"In the past, Congress could simply add several billions of dollars, and we could make things work under that basis," Cohen said at a news conference to release the report. "We now have the balanced-budget agreement. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to get

the kind of additional funding that otherwise might have been available in past years."

Defense officials contend that the projected savings, along with other benefits, are persuasive enough for Congress to give them the power to close more bases through the process.

"We have not developed an alternative plan," said John Goodman, deputy under secretary of Defense for industrial affairs and installations, in a recent interview.

Goodman also said the department does not want to wait several years to receive authorization because of the importance of doing advance planning.

"Already this year, we are going to program our budget for the years 2000 to 2005," he said. "That's the time period where we're going to be making significant choices about what our priorities are, what we're going to be spending. We need to know whether we're going to have access to those kinds of savings and, if not, what we're going to do."

Such arguments hold sway with some influential Republicans, including Senate Armed Services Committee member John W. Warner of Virginia. "They've sucked the blood out of the operating funds for the services," Warner said. "If we don't begin to get additional sources of revenue dedicated to defense, I don't know what we're going to do."

House Majority Leader Dick Armey of Texas, one of the original architects of the base-closure process, initially was adamant about not giving the Clinton administration permission for more base-closing rounds.

"This president does not have a chance," Armey said in an interview last month.

But after Cohen released his report last week, Armey issued a statement throwing his "full support" behind the idea.

Serious Doubts

Other lawmakers remain skeptical. "The timing is wrong," said Rep. Joel Hefley, R-Colo., who chairs the House National Security Military Installations and Facilities Subcommittee. "We need to get our arms around what we've already done."

Sen. Pete V. Domenici, R-N.M., said he would examine Cohen's report, but that he "seriously doubted" the Senate's position had changed on allowing more base closings. "I know that my mind has certainly not changed," Domenici said in a statement.

Politically unable to close domestic bases itself for more than a decade, Congress in 1988 turned the job over to the temporary commission, insulated from parochial pressure.

The Base Closure and Realignment Commission, nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate, decided which facilities should be closed or realigned. The president and Congress had to accept or reject the commission's entire list of bases.

In the first three rounds -- 1989, 1991 and 1993 -- the commission closed 70 military installations and downsized 43 others. In the final authorized round in 1995, Congress endorsed a commission plan to shut down 79 and scale back 26 others. (1995 Almanac, p. 9-19)

The two maintenance depots that were selected for closure in the 1995 round -- McClellan Air Logistics Center near Sacramento, Calif., and Kelly Air Logistics Center in San Antonio -- had not been on the Pentagon's original list of targets. But the commission opted to close the facilities rather than accept an Air Force proposal to downsize Kelly, McClellan and three other maintenance depots.

As an alternative to closing the depots, Clinton proposed having private contractors take over maintenance work at the Texas and California sites. The news enraged many lawmakers, especially those from Oklahoma, Utah and Georgia -- the three states whose depots would have picked up extra work.

In the House, members from those three states last year killed the base-closing proposal in the National Security Committee, contending that Clinton could not be trusted to respect the apolitical nature of the process. (1997 Weekly Report, p. 1533)

In the Senate, a proposal for two more rounds was narrowly defeated during the Armed Services Committee's markup of the fiscal 1998 defense authorization bill. A floor amendment authorizing the two rounds met with a resounding 66-33 rejection. (1997 Weekly Report, p. 1639)

"We saw last time where the commission could be manipulated by politics, no question about that," said Sen. Max Cleland, D-Ga., an Armed Services member. "They've got to come up with something like Tide [detergent] -- 'new and improved.' If we can guarantee fairness, people like me will consider" another round.

Another Armed Services member, James M. Inhofe, R-Okla., who chairs the subcommittee on readiness, said he remains suspicious that competition for work between the public and private sectors may be engineered to enable Kelly and McClellan to gain more maintenance work than they deserve.

At a subcommittee hearing March 4, Inhofe sharply questioned a top Air Force official about whether she ever assured private company executives about their chances of winning future competitions. The official, Darleen Druyun, said she never recalled making any such statements.

After the hearing, Inhofe said in an interview that he remains skeptical that the process is working as it should. "I can tell you that until they fulfill the requirements of the last round, there's just not going to be another one," he said.

But Armed Services' ranking Democrat, Carl Levin of Michigan, said the process is working well. He noted that Congress addressed the issue of public-private competitions in the fiscal 1998 defense authorization bill by requiring the Air Force to split evenly its military repair work between public depots and private firms. Previously, 60 percent of the work had been slated for the public and 40 percent for the private sector.

Pentagon officials contend that another argument in favor of closing more bases is that the military continues to have more facilities than it needs.

The Pentagon's Quadrennial Defense Review of long-range defense plans, completed last May, recommended two additional rounds of base closures. The review concluded that even after all the previous base-closing rounds were complete, the base structure would still be larger than required by the force structure, the number of combat units of each branch of the military. A new Defense Department analysis found that the department has a 23 percent excess base capacity. (1997 Weekly Report, 1201)

"What we'd like to do," Goodman said, "is reduce the duplicative overhead costs and achieve the kinds of efficiencies you get when you put things together."

Since it sought two additional rounds of base closings last fall, the department has changed its plans to start shutting the bases after Clinton leaves office. It originally proposed that the two rounds be in

1999 and 2001. Some supporters, including Senate Armed Services member Joseph I. Lieberman, D-Conn., said they think such a move could help politically.

Lieberman also said that the Pentagon's argument that it needs the savings to update its hardware and equipment for the 21st century will also prove persuasive.

"We can't do the things we need to do to modernize equipment purchases without resources, and everyone acknowledges these [excess bases] are a waste of resources," he said in an interview.

But Lieberman said that despite such evidence, the notion of authorizing two more base closing rounds this year "is still a long shot."

Embassy Row

by James Morrison

Diplomatic traffic

Washington Times
April 6, 1998
Pg. 10

Foreign visitors in town this week include:

Today

• Defense Minister Lazar Kitanoski of Macedonia, who meets Defense Secretary William S. Cohen for discussions on Balkan security issues including the unrest in Kosovo. Tomorrow he speaks at 10 a.m. at the National Press Club.

New York Times April 5, 1998

Nations Endorse Measure to Limit Spread of Small Arms

By Raymond Bonner

OSLO, Norway -- With words like path-breaking, courageous and visionary, representatives from African and Western nations, including the United States, have resoundingly endorsed measures to control the spread of light weapons, the major cause of death in today's wars.

The action came at a two-day assembly in Oslo called to advance a proposed moratorium on the export, import and manufacture of light weapons in West Africa, and to consider how that moratorium could be a model for other regions of the world, like Central America.

Reflecting a rapidly growing movement to stanch the flow of light weapons into areas of conflict, the conference was attended by 18 African nations, more than a dozen European countries, and Japan, Canada and Argentina.

"It is a dream come true," said Jan Egeland, director of the Norwegian Initiative on Small Arms Transfers, which convened the meeting, along with the U.N. Development Program.

"Africa has seen too many wars, too many civilians killed, too much human rights abuse," said Egeland, an energetic former Norwegian diplomat, who two weeks ago was the key speaker at a conference at Columbia University in New York City on controlling the light weapons trade.

It was therefore imperative, he said, for governments to support the "visionary idea" of a moratorium.

In a distinct break from weapons control measures in the past, delegates noted, this one is not the work of major outside powers.

Rather, the initiative for the moratorium came from the president of Mali, Alphan Oumar Konare, who has been commended for the symbolic burning two years ago of a pile of 3,000 weapons surrendered by rebel groups in his country.

"The political, economic and social consequences of the anarchic proliferation of light weapons are well known," Konare said in his opening address. "They are the millions of victims, most of them civilians, the displaced populations with their tears and suffering, the phenomena of child soldiers, terrorism and wide-scale banditry in urban areas.

"This belief in disarmament does not proceed from idealism, or from naivete. The best strategy for prevention of armed conflict is to eliminate the means of violence."

Konare said his government would soon declare a moratorium, and other countries at the Oslo meeting said they expected the 15-member Economic Community of West African States to call for a moratorium at its next meeting, in July.

The fledgling movement to curtail the trade in small arms and light weapons, like automatic rifles, machine guns, hand grenades, mortars and shoulder-fired missiles, has been propelled by the successful campaign to ban antipersonnel land mines.

And this time the United States is determined not to be left out, as in the land mines campaign, which produced a treaty that the Clinton administration has refused to sign.

"We not only want to play in this, but exercise a little control to keep it in the right direction," said Herbert Calhoun, an official in the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and the leader of the U.S. delegation to the conference.

The Clinton administration is fully mobilized to support measures to control the trade in light weapons, and is preparing some proposals of its own, he said.

The focus of Washington, however, is on the illicit trade in pistols, which it wants to keep out of the hands of street criminals and drug gangs.

But the participants in Oslo were part of a much broader movement, one aiming at all small arms, and the legal as well as illegal trade, and it is primarily concerned about the political and social mayhem magnified by the spread of small arms.

"Available in abundance, cheap to buy, requiring little training to use, small arms have become the weapons of choice for the present-day conflicts fought mostly in the streets and back lanes by irregular troops in violation of accepted standards of humanitarian law," Jayanthan Dhanapala, the U.N. undersecretary-general for disarmament, said at the conference.

"We must spare no effort in working together to insure that when history looks back on our endeavors, it will recognize that although it amounted to a daunting challenge, the trade of small arms was successfully controlled," he concluded.

Parade
April 5, 1998
Pg. 21

Jiang's Scrapbook

China's President Jiang Zemin has a new, 236-page book. With the title *Building a Constructive Strategic Partnership Between China and the United States: President Jiang Zemin's State Visit to the United States*, it seems an unlikely best-seller. This "scrapbook" reprints all the speeches Jiang made in the U.S., with photos. The publisher is an arm of China's Foreign Ministry—which guarantees this book won't be shredded or remaindered.

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